



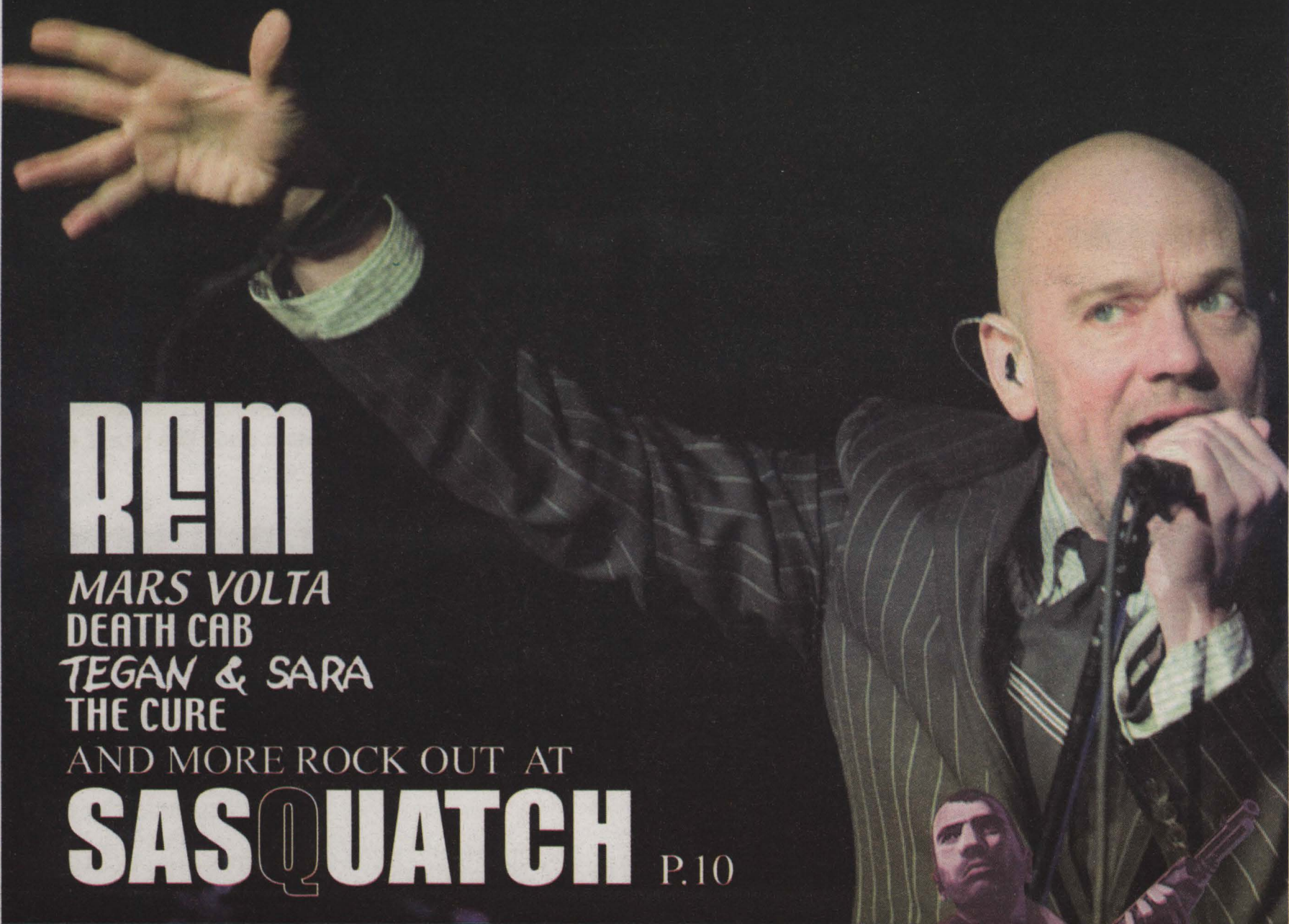
OTHER

PRESS



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the Douglas college student newspaper since 1976
Issue 26, Vol 34, June 2/08



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DEATH CAB

TEGAN & SARA

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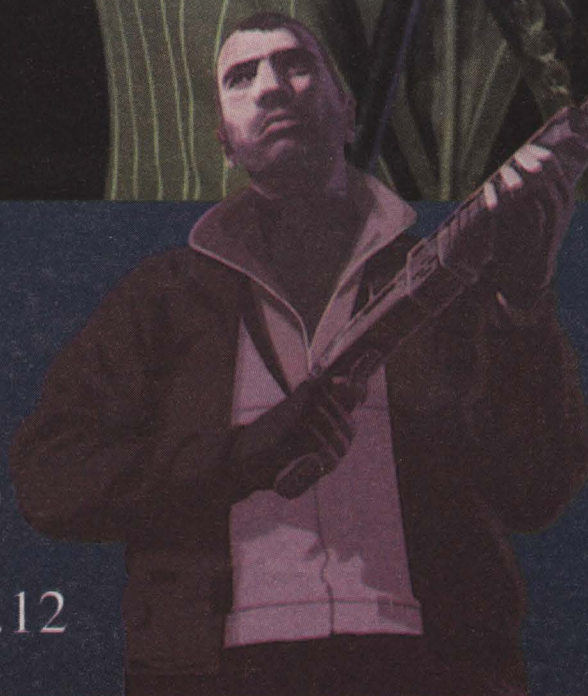
AND MORE ROCK OUT AT

SASQUATCH

P.10

plus: **HOW GOOD
IS GTA 4?**

P.12



The Other Press

www.otherpress.ca

THE OTHER PRESS

Student Newspaper of
Douglas College
PUBLISHED SINCE 1976

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This Week's Headlines

June 2, 2008

NEWS

A desperate plea from the community convinces the College Board to save programs for special needs students.

-Matthew Steinbach, page 4

OPINIONS

From terrorism to bird flu, there's lots of ways the world could end. Let's discuss the best ones.

-Aime Ouellette, page 7

FEATURES

Not just a furry man-ape that tries to kill the Kokanee ranger; A thorough review of the Sasquatch music festival.

-Luke Simcoe, page 10

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Another year, another Grand Theft Auto. How does the latest one compare to the others?

-Ramin Ostad, page 16

SPORTS

Douglas' award-winning basketball team settles on a new coach.

-Garth McLennan, page 12

WRITE FOR US !

Anyone can get published in the Other Press! Just email your story to the appropriate section editor from the list on the right.

Please send your file as an MS Word doc file, and include your full name, email address, and word count.

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday night for publication the following Monday. Letters to the Editor and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday at noon and can be submitted to the editor at editor@theotherpress.ca

Submissions will be edited for clarity and style.

The Other Press will pay \$50 to any student who writes an article of at least 1,000 words for the "features" section. Submit story ideas to the Editor in Chief. Offer good once per semester per student.

The Other Press holds weekly staff meetings at 6 PM on Mondays in room 1020 of the New Westminster campus. All interested students are welcome.

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WHO WE ARE

The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. Today we are registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by and from our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.

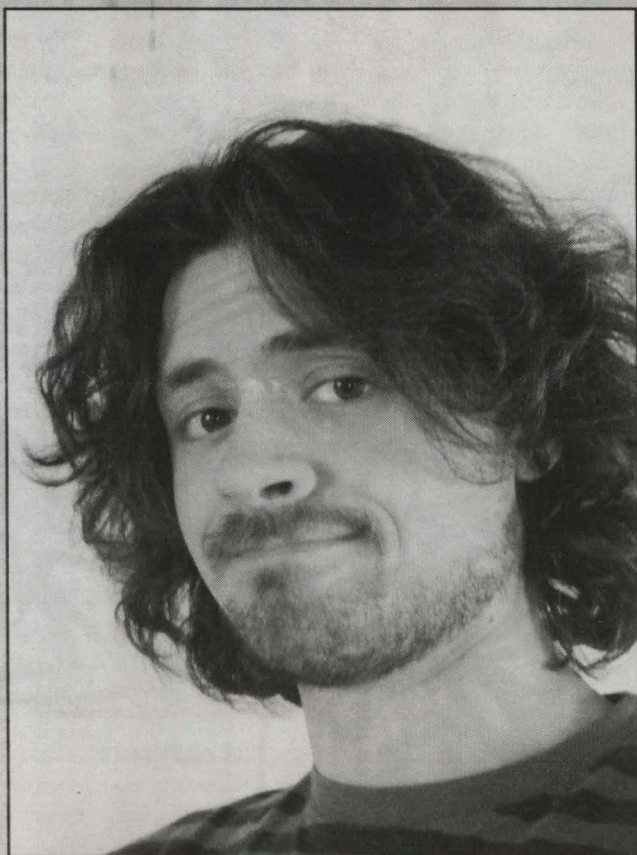
The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester

at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.

Why I like Obama

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Seeing as how my time at the Other Press is drawing to a close, I think it's only right that I use one of my last remaining "letters from the editor" to do what I do best, and offer up some bitter right-wing commentary. So let's talk about Obama.

If you're even remotely politically interested, chances are that you have several Obamaniacs as friends. People that join all the various Obama facebook groups, and have his poster in their bedroom, listen to his speeches on YouTube, and all the rest of it. They speak with wide-eyed wonder about just how darn *great* he is at everything, and how he'll change America like no president ever before. Even if you're not a conservative yourself, I'm sure you find at least some of this a little bit cloying and saccharine. Yet sometimes one cannot help but pause to savour the fantastic nature of it all.

Within my short lifetime, I've seen my friends and school buddies support and defend various political candidates, and argue—or even campaign—on their behalf. But in all honesty, Obama is the first politician I've seen young

people genuinely *like*. And I don't mean like, as in, "I want to win," I mean a genuine, deep-seated, personal fondness and love. A lot of college-aged kids may vote NDP, but at the end of the day Jack Layton is just some dork with a mustache who happens to be the leader of the day. If he didn't have the job some other knob would. But Obama is different, Obama is cool, Obama is someone you can see yourself in, someone you'd like to hang out with, someone who you can support without qualification.

I've written about the Great One in these pages before, and I've enjoyed taking the traditional right-wing potshots in the traditional fashion; ie, slugging his inexperience, his naiveté, his oddball pastor and wife, his preening vanity, etc. But truth be told, it's not always easy. There are elements of Obama which are very hard to dislike, primarily because Obama isn't really a politician per se, he's an idea. And even if Obama the person is little more than a fairly unremarkable and decidedly flawed liberal politician, Obama the idea is something much bigger, something that transcends mere ideology and partisanship. I'm still not entirely sure I understand the appeal, but I do understand its value.

Even though I like reading and writing about it, I don't consider myself someone who really "likes" politics per se. And I don't think most people do. People like culture and philosophy, and Obama's very good at speaking those languages, as opposed to someone like John McCain, who is unable to sound like anything other than the career politician he is. A couple issues ago our opinions editor, Aimee Ouellette wrote a fine piece in which she espoused the increasingly-common view that Obama's popularity comes in part from his ability to speak about substantial cultural matters, like race and class, in an honest and mature way. He doesn't talk like a guy who you'd see on Crossfire, or Hannity and Colmes, or any of those other terrible soundbyte festivals, but rather a guy who has put some genuine thought into the things he believes. It doesn't mean the things he believes are any good, mind you, but it does display a thoughtfulness that is decidedly refreshing in an era in which everything we see, hear, and read—including our politicians—come pre-made and pre-packaged.

But perhaps the best part of Obama is what

he's done for this country. In the late 1960's and early 70's liberal Americans were often attracted to Canada primarily because of the way our hip, happening, lefty prime minister contrasted so positively with their dour, sadistic, right-wing president. The rise of Obama has triggered something of a reversal in that dynamic, which truth be told, continued to dwell in the Canadian imagination long after Trudeau left the scene. Canadians love to think of ourselves as the sexy progressive alternate US, the indie radio station of North America that plays the hits *they don't want you to hear* south of the border. Canadians would have loved to produce an Obama of our own, but for a number of reasons we didn't, and instead got Stephen Harper. And now we're forced to realize that maybe, just maybe, our country doesn't have a monopoly on all that is innovative and progressive.

Obama's rise thus helps dispel a number of crude stereotypes about the United States that would otherwise have a stranglehold on college-age brains. America is not, and has never been an irreversibly "conservative" country, and its proud traditions of leftist protest and intellectualism have historically inspired much more of the western world than those of, say, Canada. By evoking his country's liberal past, Obama has made it okay for Canadians to like America again, and perhaps even made it cool to do so. The red, white, and blue might still be symbols of Bushian imperialism to some, but to others they've also become the colors of Obama's bandwagon of hope for a more progressive tomorrow. As someone who thinks the future of this country is fundamentally tied to the fate of the US, any leader capable of fostering greater cross-border sympathy and support, even if it's for all the wrong reasons, can't be that bad.

I don't think Obama will be elected president, and even if he is, I doubt he'll be a particularly good one. But he will give a great deal of people faith in the political process, and a reason to love America again. It would take a conservative with a heart of ice not to view that as at least some kind of victory.

J.J. McCullough
Editor in Chief of the Other Press

The Sasquatch Music Festival Page 10



Special needs programs saved from budget cuts

Emotional protest convinces College Board to tap into emergency funds

Matthew Steinbach
assistant
news editor



Typically with student issues on campus, students have tended to be absent. With the last student union and college board elections a mere 1-5 percent of students bothered to participate. Douglas is not the only institution to suffer from student apathy; this trend has affected most schools in British Columbia.

One issue in particular has transformed this indifference in the past month; over the college budget no less. A call was sent out to salvage the Adult Special Education programs, about half of which were to be removed in a new round of budget cuts.

Adult Special Education or ASE, as they are commonly referred to, are programs for students with disabilities, as Bob Logelin (Coordinator for this area at Douglas College) emphasised at the May 12, 2008 meeting of the Douglas College Education Council. While these programs are designed for students with varying needs they are not extensions of other programs. ASE sections are specially tailored, unique courses

designed to fit specific disabilities.

Individual students, as well as community members, have a right to inquire about cuts at the College's Board of Governors and Education Council meetings. Rarely do average citizens participate in these discussions though. The May 15 meeting was thus rather exceptional as the day delivered an abnormal amount of guests, with several delegations of students, staff, and faculty members jointly arriving at to plea for the programs. Together these groups appealed to the Board's on a number of fronts, sometimes emotional, sometimes

rational, producing a touching meeting for many. The night climaxed when a petition of over 1,000 signatures collected in ten days was dramatically presented by a concern parent to the Board.

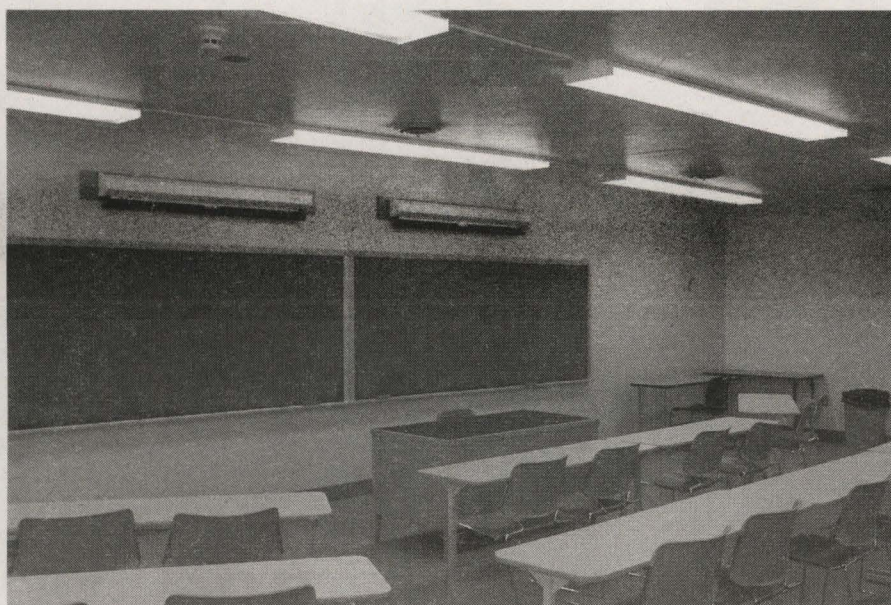
When asked why there was such a striking turn in student participation that included a room full of past, present, and future Douglas College students, Ally MacGrotty, student representative on the Douglas College Board stated "This was a critical moment where the community came together. This was a crucial moment to save these programs." She

explained that the interest was already there, however this was the students chance to represent themselves.

Not unexpectedly, on May 16 Douglas College announced that two of the programs in question ("Transitions," and customer service and cashier training) would be spared from the budget cuts.

However, this is not the end of the process; the College must now resort to using its emergency funds to finance these programs for one more year. How will these programs be maintained for an extended length of time? The Vice President of Education at Douglas College, Jan Lindsay, answered this in a press release on the same day declaring that "the Board has provided us with the means to continue these programs while we look for other sources of funding."

Karen Maynes, Vice President of Finance, recently spoke with *The Other Press*. The Dispensing Optician program (10 sections), and Stagecraft (two sections) are the only areas that Douglas intends to cut thus far, other than those ones the next set of reductions "could be anywhere." These ones have only been decided because the College has to wait until second year students in these programs complete their requirements before they can make cuts to them. Next year an additional \$568,000 must be cut from the budget along with the already announced cuts.



Campus BBQ welcomes ESL students

Nikalas Kryzanowski
news editor



The theme was superheroes even though only a few dressed the part. Those who did, "Pandaman" and "The Lucky Charm", were not really recognizable as such, but in the end it didn't matter one bit. Everyone got fed and danced the night away.

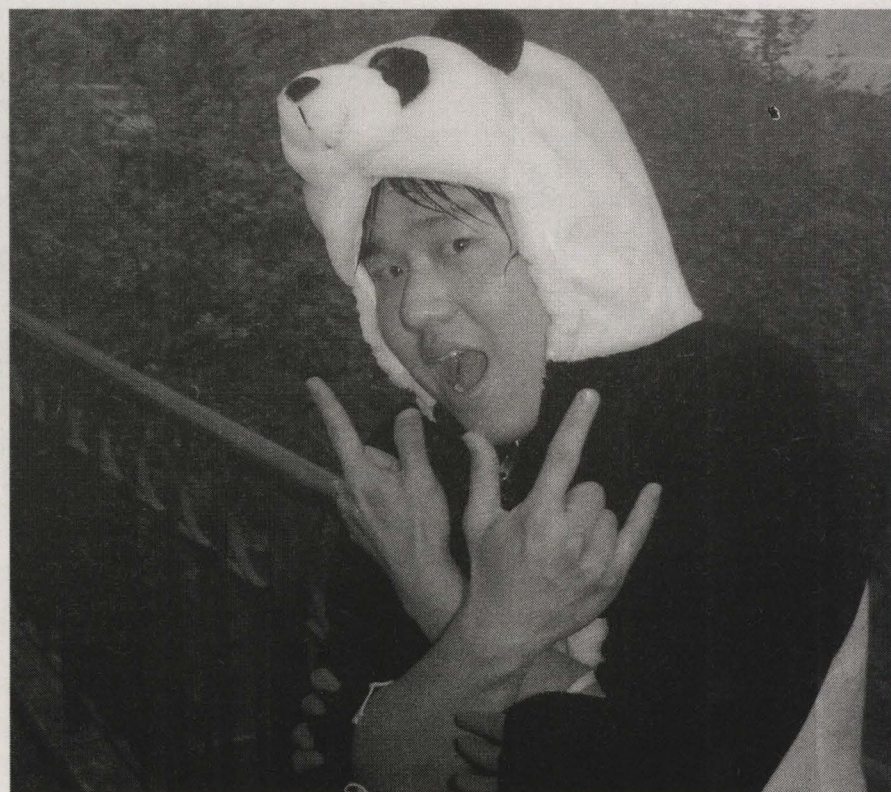
The purpose of the student union BBQ this year was to welcome international students, along with some 90 Quebecois students from the bilingualism-promoting "Explore" program, to Douglas College. The francophone students are on a six week study program that allows them to hone their English skills in a supportive setting while also having the enriching

experience of visiting another part of Canada.

Maude LaReau, a student at Université du Québec à Rimouski and a member of the program says that the experience has been a great one so far. "It has been awesome. My English skills are improving. Everyone here is sociable."

Angelique Laperryere, another Explore student was playing to the superhero theme, decked out in green, topped off with a bucket on her head. She became known as "The Lucky Charm." She has been enjoying her friends and the nightlife around Vancouver and New Westminster.

The DSU did not manage to pass a budget in time for the BBQ and largely ventured to pay for the hundreds of burgers and cans of alcohol out of their own pockets. They will likely move to be reimbursed out of union funds at the next meeting. According to Internal Relations, the event is designed with the hopes of breaking even, meaning drink proceeds should eventually wind up in union funds.



"Pandaman" one of the few costumed guests at last week's DSU barbeque.



Douglas students help open daycare in Uganda

By Nikalas Kryzanowski, News Editor

Douglas College has helped set up a new day care at the Masaka Regional Hospital in Uganda. The facility is designed to take in children whose mothers are admitted for treatment.

Masaka Hospital authorities were quick to thank Phillips and the college for their efforts.

"All too often, we have healthy children who come to the hospital in the company of their sick mothers so we have always wanted to create a child friendly environment. This is now possible with the provision of the child day care facility such as this," said Hospital

Administrator Winnie Serwanja, in an interview with the *Daily Telegraph*.

The daycare will initially operate out of a tent on hospital grounds but staff are working to raise money to build proper buildings in which the children will learn about things such as basic sanitation and hygiene.

At present, there are 32 children enrolled at the daycare and the hospital said that in the future they may additionally open their doors to children of staffers, children in the pediatric ward and those from the general community.

The college will be responsible for providing basic furniture and supplies

to the daycare and will also pay the salary of the daycare's head teacher. The hospital itself has refurbished the playground equipment.

The project was headed by Lynda Phillips, the ECE coordinator at the Douglas. She is still currently in Uganda and very difficult to reach as access to the internet and even electricity is limited.

Douglas College has a partnership with the Ugandan hospital and has been sending students there to work for ten week periods since 2005. Students take their skills learned at Douglas College and apply them to real world health situations.

Changes to college's academic freedom policy proposed

By Matthew Steinbach, Associate News



The Douglas College Education Council (EDCO), the on-campus committee whose mandate is to set up the school's educational policies, is presently debating a new policy that delves into academic freedoms. The category of "academic freedom" generally outlines what can and cannot be taught in the classroom, including controversial matters. Currently Douglas' definition of the concept is rather murky, which the EDCO is aiming to correct. Proposed policy changes will make Douglas' standards similar to those used in many other colleges.

Jan Lindsay, the Vice President of Education at Douglas College, discussed the matter at an EDCO meeting on May 12. She stated the new policy will "allow instructors to include certain things [in their curricula] without fear of reprisal."

While this may alter how the faculty teaches at Douglas, it will be a while before the reformed policy even passes through Education Council. Their board agreed to delay a resolution on the new academic freedoms policy until October because of the magnitude of the matter.

The postponement was justified with the intent of fostering as much debate as possible over the proposed changes within the college community before the council takes its final action. To participate in this discussion, students may enquire about it with their current student representatives on EDCO, Wendy Case (New Westminster Campus) and Sebastian Bubrick (David Lam Campus).

DSU building burglarized

By Matthew Steinbach, Associate News

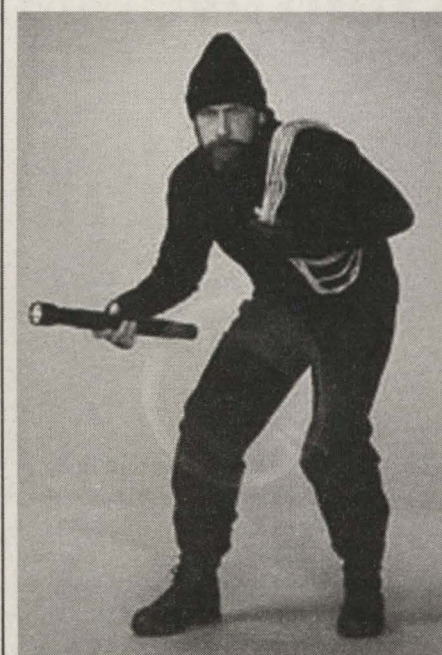
The Douglas Students' Union's building has experienced their third break-in in three years. This most recent incident occurred after two curious previous events where people gained entry into the building after office hours without any signs of force.

The most recent incident occurred during office hours, and involved the Upper Lounge. Someone pried open the Coca-Cola machines and stole money from the cash boxes inside of them. As part of their contract with Coca-Cola, part of the revenue generated from all pop sales is used in general operating funds to fund the Student Union's events and services.

DSU Staffer, Lyndon Surjik witnessed this event as it progressed and even pursued the burglar as he took flight. Eventually the robber did break away from Surjik, taking the money with him.

The New Westminster police department is currently investigating the incident and even took some of the equipment that the suspect left behind. Lyndon Surjik emphasized at the May 28 Representative Committee meeting of the DSU that it did not seem likely that the person would ever be caught because police were not able to obtain anything conclusive to ID the suspect, including fingerprints.

The students' union building does not contain any video cameras, unlike the rest of Douglas College, so the police have to rely on much earlier methods to pursue suspects. If the person were to be captured at some point, Surjik did express his belief that he would be able to identify the culprit. Such hopes seem slim, however. The building's previous break-ins have all gone unsettled.



Have you seen a thief?

News

New DSU board assigns "cabinet" roles

By Matthew Steinbach, Associate News

The May 7 meeting of the newly-elected Representative Committee of the Douglas Students' Union saw the directors determine their portfolio positions for the first time since last March's election.

This year, Geoff Lenahan—leader of the victorious "Revitalize" slate—gained the position of Speaker (the Representative Committee's chair), and Staff Relations Officer. Also from Revitalize, Christine Nieder achieved Deputy Speaker, Deep Singh became the BC Provincial Executive (the DSU's representative on the Canadian Federation of Students — BC Board), and Hassan Chaudry attained Clubs Coordinator. The only affiliate of "Douglas Students' United" slate to receive one of these tasks was Ally MacGrotty, who will now also serve as the Performing Arts Committee chair.

Portfolio Positions are akin to cabinet posts in the Federal Government. Each task is appointed after a representative is elected, a common student does not determine these assignments.

However, these roles execute some of the pivotal functions of the students' union. For instance, the DSU employs several staff members that



Geoff Lenahan (far right), the student union treasurer and now chairman of the board, seen here with fellow board members during last week's DSU barbeque.

are neither students nor members of the organization. Thus the students' union charges an individual to be the Staff Relations Officer, which ultimately deals with the staff's Union (CUPE 2396) and the conduct of the DSU's employees.

Despite the significance of these positions, this can also be an indicator of where individuals stand

within the newly elected group. Some organizations bypass this by placing these into someone's duties description, so when student's vote, they are electing these positions automatically. Under the Douglas Students' Union's system, usually leaders of a slate in the previous election tend to gain the key portfolios because of this.



Student Union votes to support controversial Toronto protestors

By Matthew Steinbach, Associate News

Across the country, many student unions have sprung to the support of a group of protestors dubbed the "University of Toronto 14." Following a board meeting last week, the Douglas Students' Union has officially announced their backing of this group as well.

March 20, 2008, saw 14 protestors rally inside administration offices at the University of Toronto, allegedly protesting a new policy the school was implementing that would make it easier to discipline students for so-called "non-academic" conduct, such as public misbehavior or disruption. After the group spent several hours squatting in the building, security was summoned to clear them out and several arrests were made. In the aftermath, many of the protestors have since claimed their arrests were politically-motivated, and others have claimed to suffer police brutality.

At its last Representative Committee meeting, the Douglas Students' Union criticized U of T officials for "suppressing students' rights to organize," and expressed apprehension that similar shutdowns of protests could occur at Douglas, too. The committee subsequently passed a motion declaring unanimous

support for the U of T 14.

Though the DSU may be supportive of the 14, some other schools have been more wary. The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) at SFU initially voted to endorse a similar motion of support for the protestors, but the vote was not unanimous and triggered a great deal of controversy in the aftermath. J.J. McCullough, the editor of the *OP* who also serves as opinions editor of the SFU student newspaper *The Peak*, wrote an article expressing several strong concerns over the SFU student union's decision to back a group of people he described as "lunatics." In a lead editorial article he argued the Toronto protestors were not nearly as peaceful as many assumed and called attention to a YouTube video documenting the episode.

In the aftermath, the SFU union voted to rescind support for the group at their next meeting. Joe Paling, the SFSS president who was opposed to the protestors from the beginning, claimed he felt the U of T episode "lacked coherence."

"They were trespassing, and they prevented people from going home," he said. Eventually all but two of the five board members of the SFSS who initially voted in favour of the group voted to rescind the initial motion.

News Shorts

By Nikalas Kryzanowski

Longtime DSU staffer dies

Marilyn Houlihan, the longtime General Manager of the Douglas College Student Society, has died of cancer on April 30th at the age of 66. She was well liked and had been with the Student Society since its inception in 1972, until she eventually left the organization in a bitter parting. The Douglas Students Union has pledged a \$500 donation to the BC Cancer Foundation in her honour and her obituary requests that donations be made to the Foundation in lieu of flowers.

David Lam could rock next fall

The student union is working on a big concert for students this fall at David Lam Campus. It is hoped that the show will involve some big name bands and be akin to some of the "welcome back" celebrations often held for students at larger universities. According to Geoff Lenahan the DSU has received approval from most of the necessary parties and all of what remains is to confirm the bands.

Campus Pride centre to reopen

Having been closed for the year, the Pride Centre at Douglas is about to reopen thanks to the work of April Taylor, the new DSU Pride Liaison. The centre, which offers a safe and welcoming space for the college's gay, lesbian, and questioning students, has recently acquired some new items such as a fridge and television. The layout will change and there will be some new material and resources available. Taylor is looking for volunteers to help with the centre this summer and for next year and can be contacted at dsupride@yahoo.ca. The formal reopening will occur on June 4, 2008.



Apocalypse how?

Aimee Ouellette
opinions editor



If you had to end the world right now, how would you do it?

That may be a surprising question, but it's something I think about all the time. For example, I was going to write this article about eco-density, skyrocketing real estate prices, and the economy, but it was starting to get too negative and depressing and all I could think about was the world ending. I'm a neurotic person by nature, so when I think about "bad things" on a large scale, my mind immediately wanders into apocalyptic scenarios where frogs are extinct and there is no rice left. Seriously, someone tells me something about rising gas prices and suddenly I have an image of a future Vancouver where everyone is covered in bugs and suffering from sushi withdrawal. Oh, and there's zombies—what's an apocalypse without zombies?

To keep myself from becoming too frightened about the end of the world, I try to make a game of it. Which world-ending disaster would be worst? The best? The funniest? This was a great game to play when I was in junior high school, because it was the '90s and most of my apocalyptic scenarios were non-plausible, like "snap-bracelet shortage results in widespread rioting at No Doubt concerts," or "those clear jelly shoes turn out to cause cancer."

Nowadays, though, pretty much everything I hear on the news is a viable

cause for concern. In fact, there are so many apocalyptic possibilities now that I have to group them into genres to even keep track of them all. If the Large Hadron Collider they've got in Sweden creates a giant black hole that sucks up the entire earth? Well, that is a prime example of Ambitious Science Experiment Goes Awry. Some crazy dictator presses the button—BAM—and we get fifty years of nuclear winter? Definitely an example of War Turns Out To Be Bad Idea After All. Weather crises like hurricanes and volcanoes destroy most of the earth? That's probably going to be chalked up as Mother Earth Has Post-Partum Depression.

Some apocalyptic scenarios can't really be put into one tidy box, however. For example, gas shortages lead to worldwide food shortages, which in turn could cause hoarding and rioting, which would then lead to wars; and if there's war, there's the possibility of nukes. Or bioterrorism. Or maybe half of the world's population will get taken out by a wicked strain of MRSA flu, which is a horrible cross between bird flu and antibiotic-resistant infection I just made up right now. You see, productive lines of thought like this one are why I'm writing to you as a section editor of such a prestigious newspaper.

Think of it this way—when we're huddled in our bomb shelters because genetically engineered pandas were angered by our attempts to turn bamboo into biofuel and rose up to exact revenge on humans, at least we can all sit and argue about which genre of apocalypse our particular scenario falls into. And there will always be the comfort that a zombie apocalypse would have been worse. Because zombies are *always* worse.

A few new views on the headlines



Laura Kelsey
assistant editor

Protester should pay up

In October, 2005, a protestor that couldn't let go of the plight of teachers picketed the Burnaby Bus Centre, halting bus service for several hours.

I had rushed that morning to get ready for one of my two jobs, waiting to catch a bus from Hastings and Boundary that would then drop me off at Commercial so I could reach my final destination of Princess and Hastings. A silly system, but one I had to live with.

I ran down my apartment-complex steps to stand in the October shitty weather to wait for a bus that never showed.

When I realized the bus was not going to show, I ran to my car and braved the morning rush hour. Upon arrival at work - late - there were very few spaces left to park.

I must have worked too close to an intersection. When I went outside after work to retrieve my car, it was gone - towed.

Donna Peterson, the protestor, probably didn't realize how much she was disrupting commuters' lives that day. She probably didn't think about the domino effect that could result. Or maybe she just didn't care about the consequences of her actions. Coast Mountain Bus Co. is considering legal action against her. Good.

Dicks and dogs

Was Jeremy Pete, the guy (I hesitate in calling him a "man") who put his week-old daughter up for sale on



Craigslist just joking around? Who cares. Pete, who was involved in the death of Vancouver Police dog Nitro (in New Westminster), really does sound like a "dick," for lack of a harsher word. Dogs and babies alike may be safer if he were behind bars.



View should include the trees

Queen Elizabeth Park's tree management are considering the cutting of 70 trees that are blocking the view.

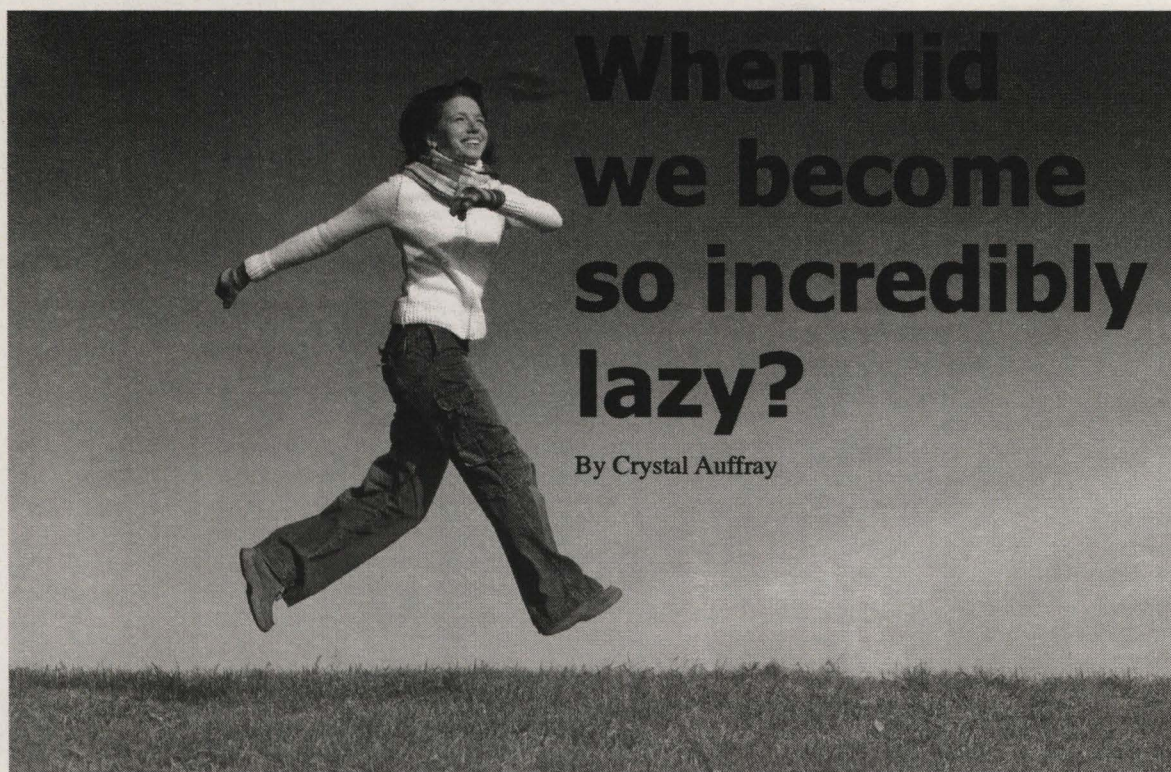
Life in BC means living with trees. They should be celebrated, especially in parks. Aren't we as proud of our trees as we are of our metropolis? I'd welcome trees blocking my view of an ugly city, anytime.

A little girl who loved horses

The vehicular homicide of 4-year-old Alexa Renee Middelaer in Delta on May 17 will probably go down as one of the saddest stories of 2008. Not only was a beautiful little girl's life stolen away, but the fact charges against the drunk, speeding driver have still not been laid makes the murder even more devastating and frustrating.

Condolences go out to the family.

Opinions



When did we become so incredibly lazy?

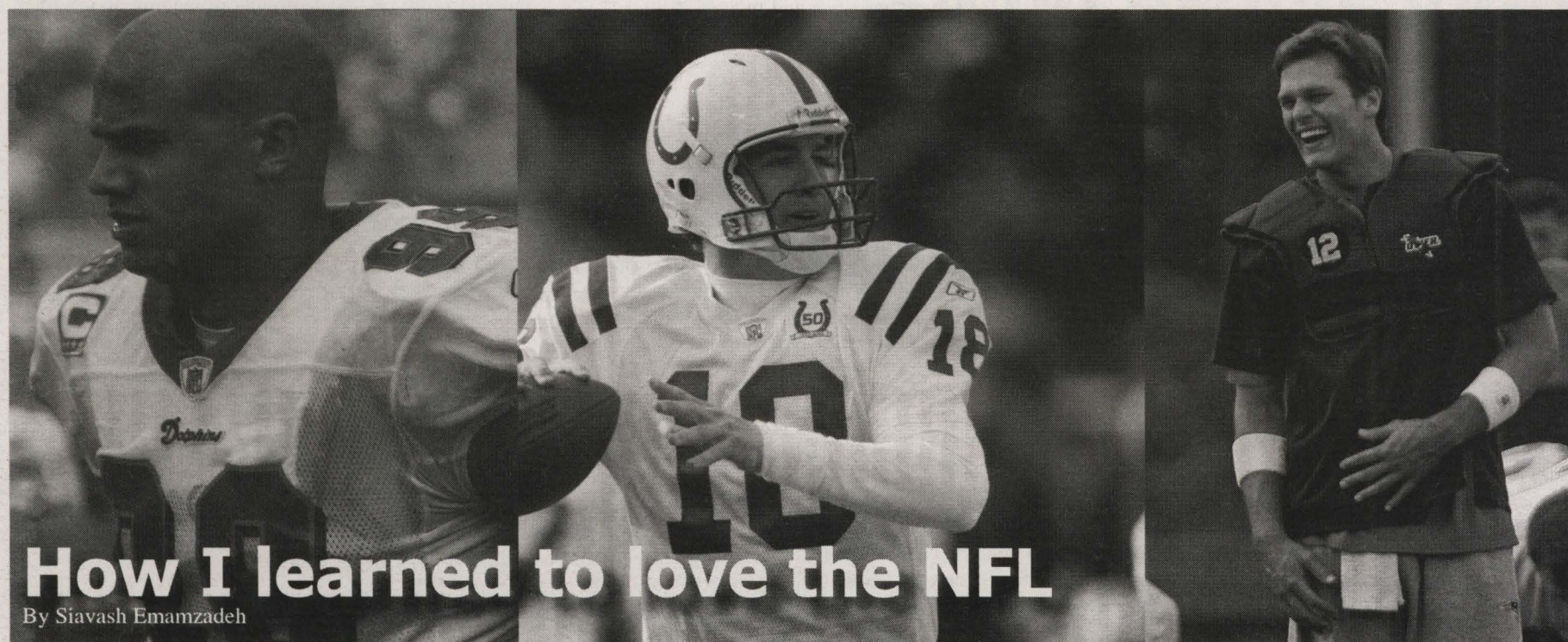
By Crystal Auffray

Ever since I moved to this beautiful city some months ago, I noticed a disturbing trend in my suburban North Burnaby neighbourhood. I'm referring to the overwhelming trend towards laziness. Don't get me wrong; I'm just as reluctant as the next night owl to throw back the covers and pull myself out of bed when the alarm goes off each morning. I really wish that a standard work day began at 10 a.m., but then I guess our fast-paced world wouldn't be as productive, now would it?

By the time I do manage to propel myself out of the house and onto my daily trudge to the SkyTrain, I notice that I'm usually the only person who has chosen to actually make use of my legs and – gasp – *walk* to catch the train!

It's not that I'm the only one awake at the ghastly hour of 6:30 am; I see my neighbours getting up to commence their commutes as well – but they prefer to sit at the bus stop and wait for the bus that will take the same amount of time to wait for as it does to walk to the station. I'm at a loss.

I can understand foregoing a trip to the station in the pouring rain, but on a beautiful warm sunny morning, what better way is there to wake up than strolling down tree-lined streets and appreciating the stillness? The whole thing is baffling to me. So I challenge you – get out there and get walking – your butt will thank you.



How I learned to love the NFL

By Siavash Emamzadeh

How many men will it take to convert me to another faith? I don't know, but three is a good start. My new faith? The NFL. The men? Jason Taylor, Peyton Manning and Tom Brady.

Now I'm a Vancouver Canucks fan first and foremost, but I can't deny that I sometimes watch games with other teams as well. It's rare, for instance, that I will ever miss an NHL playoff game, no matter who is playing. I also consider myself a somewhat casual NBA fan, and I occasionally watch their postseason games. Only now, however, is the NFL slowly beginning to penetrate through my skin, gradually earning my attention.

Until recently, the NFL just wasn't that compelling to watch; indeed, there wasn't much appeal, if any, to their promotions (remember, we *are* in Canada). But on March 24 of last year, my skepticism of the NFL was challenged by one of the league's biggest names: Peyton Manning. On that evening, the quarterback starred on *Saturday Night Live* and lo and behold, by the show's end, I found myself thoroughly amused by him and curious about the league. Manning began the show by purposefully indicating his family's presence

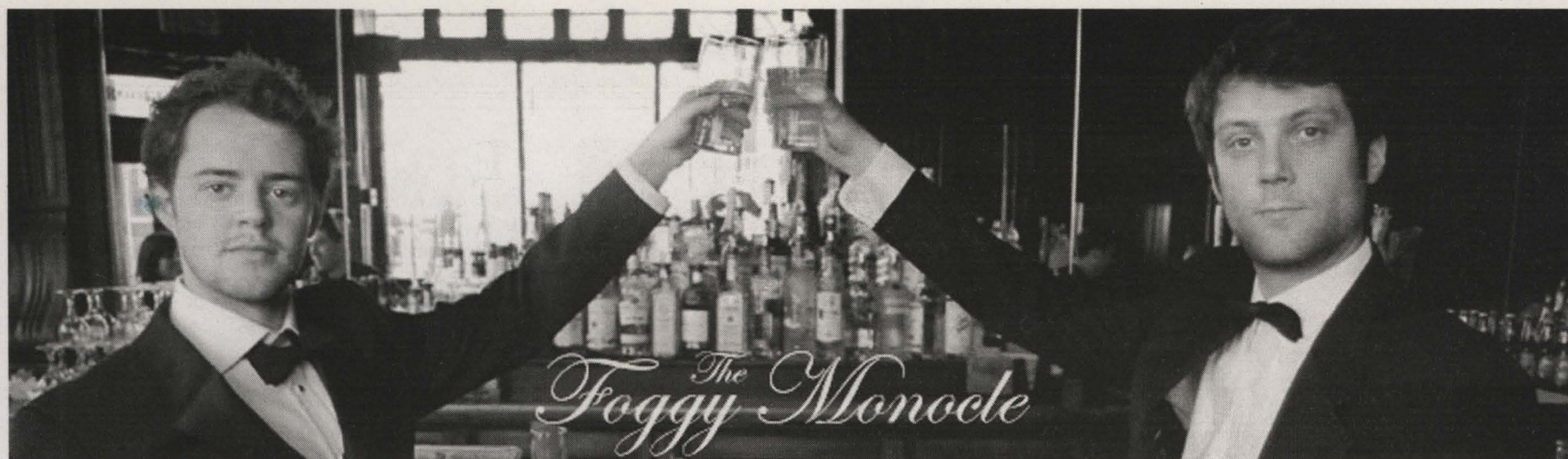
and exposing every viewer to his embrace of benign values. He was by far the best SNL guest I've ever seen (in as long as I've watched) and was always able to draw wild laughs. All in all, he represented the NFL as a dignified, classy and leader-like individual and player.

Then there's the tremendous success of the New England Patriots, led by the much beloved Tom Brady. Brady, also a quarterback, surged the Patriots to victory after victory until his team emerged with a 16-0 record at the regular season's end. Regardless of my essentially exclusive devotion to the NHL, I can't deny that perfection in the NFL is unexceptionally sexy. So the Patriots continued to ride their undefeated blaze into the playoffs and ultimately, arrived at the championship game. I gave in to temptation, and tuned in to watch the championship game between the Patriots and the New York Giants. Even though the Patriots ultimately conceded, the decision did not mar my newly-conceived enthusiasm for the league.

Finally, who can forget the preening touchdown dance that seemed to go on forever? Of course, it wasn't your traditional end zone celebration as it involved a partner and didn't occur on the field, but

if it's any consolation, Jason Taylor still was central. The defensive end dominated *Dancing with the Stars* with his imposing presence, yet graced the floor with a lax (perhaps often-concealed) side to his personality. He, like Manning, exhibited unrivalled prestige and accentuated charisma, both qualities that were often obliterated by judge Bruno Tonioli's "passionate" ramblings. Taylor's fervent moves propelled him to a final two standoff, where he eventually lost to fellow athlete Kristi Yamaguchi, who may I mention, is a dancer on ice. After Yamaguchi was announced the winner, Taylor, in a prominently transparent display of sportsmanship, hoisted her on his shoulders and carried her around the floor.

The three players have promoted their sport in ways better than any advertisement can even dream of. These dignified, fun and superior professionals have tantalized the sport in front of my very eyes. If that wasn't enough, Peyton Manning and Jason Taylor both have their own charitable foundations to give back to those in need. While Michael Vick summons my absolute apathy and abhorrence, these other players endeavor to right wrongs and draw more supporters. Very impressive.



you write it

we re-live it

www.thefoggymonocle.com By Aimee Ouellette, Opinions Editor



When you're drunk, everything you do seems like a great idea and all of your plans seem not only intelligent, but outright classy. Then, you wake up the next morning and realize that you are not Bertie Wooster, this is not mid-century Britain, and (although you're definitely in dire need of a valet) there won't be any Jeeves coming to clean up your puke and butt out the cigarette that is currently smoldering on your carpet.

Instead of drinking orange juice and mourning the fact that you are, in fact, decidedly un-classy, why don't you sober up while reading *The Foggy Monocle*, a blog that collects user-submitted drunken IM conversations and then offers them up along with delightfully droll commentary.

For example, here's *The Foggy Monocle* chaps on the classiness of drunk dialing:

"The gentle coo and hum of the gentleman's relaxed voice is a highly desired and pleasing sound, and thus is welcomed no matter what time of night the opportunity rings. With a busy schedule of business and leisure, often the only time a gentleman has available for personal calls is during the evening hours, somewhere between his last social drink and the sweet abyss of sleep."

The Foggy Monocle actually does double-duty: there is a wonderful sense of schadenfreude in reading about other people's alcohol-soaked folly, and the gentleman's club atmosphere of the blog helps to postpone your drunken unreality just a little longer. You may not be a classy dude, but you deserve to feel like one!

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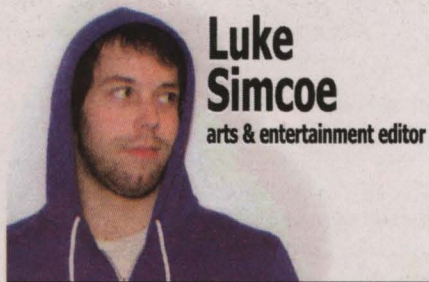
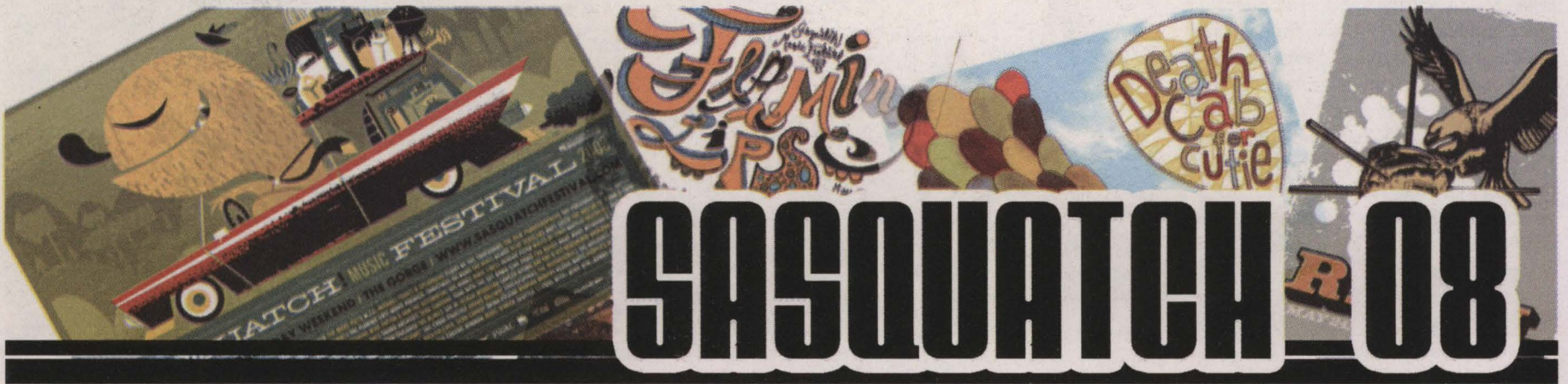
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Luke Simcoe
arts & entertainment editor

There's plenty of bad things about taking a road trip to America: less-than-courteous border guards, poorly maintained highways, a lack of healthy and/or vegetarian cuisine, occasional "Fuck Bin Laden" bumper stickers, the abundance of excessively huge people and pick-up trucks, even huger Wal-Marts, and of course, that persistent and unnerving feeling that things are so very different even though they look the same.

Despite all this, there's one thing that I really like about traveling to the States: all the different brands and varieties of consumer minutiae. The thrill of finding a Clark brand chocolate bar, or the discovery that there's no sugar in my iced tea somehow make everything else seem tolerable. This trip, I was fortunate enough to be introduced to the vast array of alcohol-laden energy drinks that the grand 'ole US of A has to offer. You see, while we poor stiffies in Canada are being gouged for Jager-bombs, our Southern counterparts are busy cramming as much Caffeine, Ginseng, and Guarana

as the FDA will allow into an absolute smorgasbord of Malt-liquor beverages. And they all cost less than two dollars!

Anyway, it turns out that these inebriating uppers come in quite handy if you want to take in twelve straight hours of music every day for three consecutive days, so I hope you'll pardon me if my coverage of this year's Sasquatch Festival seems a bit frantic or hazy.

Day 1: The National are late, M.I.A. slays, & R.E.M. goes barefoot

After a lengthy wait at the border, and a few pit-stops for bathroom breaks and liquor runs, I arrived at the Gorge in time to see **Destroyer**, a.k.a. Dan Bejar of the New Pornographers, take to the stage and chart a course through the best of his latest record, *Trouble In Dreams*. At times, Bejar's vocal delivery seems too affected, but at least it's unmistakable.

From there, it was off to the Main Stage and the **New Pornographers**, who were busy tearing through "Use It" when I showed up. Neko Case was in attendance, so the crowd was treated to both "Mass Romantic" and "Challengers," and Dan Bejar must have a teleporting device stashed up his sleeve because he joined the band only moments after Destroyer's set ended and sang both "Myriad Harbour" and "Jackie Dressed in Cobras." The Pornos closed what felt like a short set by covering Electric Light Orchestra's "Don't Bring



Tegan and Sara

Me Down." Afterwards, Kathryn Calder implored anyone in the audience with good photos of the band in front of the "beautiful" Gorge to send them to her. More than one young gentleman could be heard asking for her email address.

M.I.A. was up next, and she atoned for missing the festival last year due to border woes. Decked out in some garish green tights and a brown leather jacket, and backed by a pair of fluorescent dancers, the Tamil Tigress positively ripped through her bass-heavy beats and simple rhymes. From a distance, her show looked and sounded a little silly, but I have little doubt that the people up front, all of whom enthusiastically mimed along to the gunshot samples during "Paper Planes," were having one hell of a dance party.

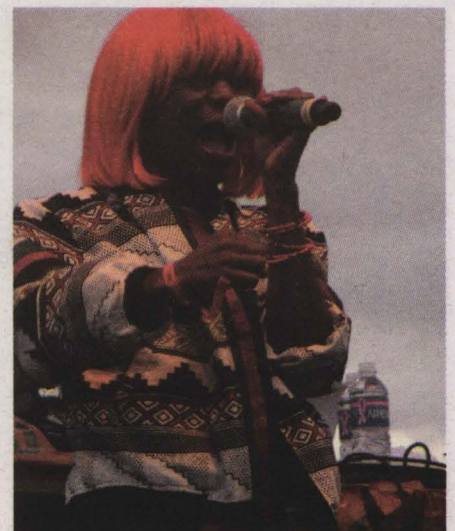
En route from Vancouver, the **National's** bus broke down, so instead of playing the Main stage in the afternoon they were relocated to the tiny Yeti stage in the early evening. I couldn't help but take pleasure in the change of plans, as the band's brooding brand of rock n' roll made far more sense on the dark, intimate stage than it would have on the sunny Main stage. Highlights included an introduction by *The Office's* Rainn Wilson—who was at the festival promoting his upcoming film, *Rocker*—and a rousing closing version of "Mr.

November." Singer Matt Berninger looks so tortured and emotional onstage that it's impossible not to get wrapped up in his performance, and his grimaces and screams are enough to make one want to meet the woman who did this to him. Also, twin guitarists Aaron and Bryce Dessner really resemble the hobbits from *Lord of the Rings*. Sadly, they ignored my demands that they give me back my precious.

The National overlapped with Modest Mouse, and I got back to the Main stage in time to join the crowd for **R.E.M.** When the band was setting up, the looming dark clouds finally

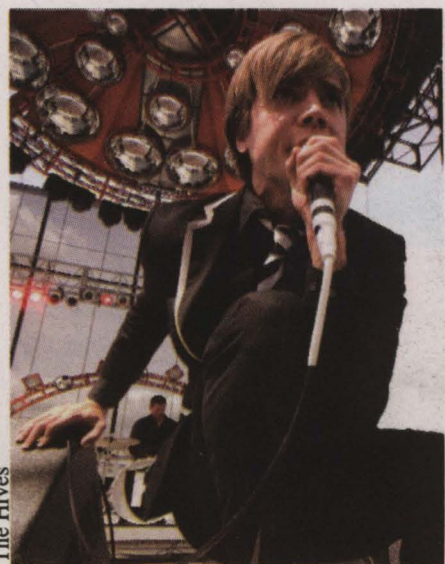


R.E.M.



M.I.A.

opened up and began to rain. High winds accompanied the deluge, and I was actually worried that they might cancel the show, but the band and its crew soldiered on, and the only hiccup occurred when guitarist Peter Buck slipped on a puddle during the band's entrance. The band opened with *Accelerate*'s "Living Well Is the Best Revenge," which flowed immediately into "What's the Frequency, Kenneth?" and the rest of the set leaned pretty heavily into the band's more rock-oriented songs. Michael Stipe has aged fairly well, and despite the fact that it was only their second show into the tour, he was every inch the frontman. Whether he was crooning, shouting, lending his support to Barack Obama, or even just taking off his shoes to avoid the same



The Hives

fate as Buck, the crowd was transfixed by him. The band alternated between old and new—even treating the crowd to only the second live performance of *Automatic for the People*'s "Ignoreland"—before rolling out a blistering encore that consisted of "Orange Crush" and "Man on the Moon."

Death Cab for Cutie



Day 2: Early morning drinking, Brian Posehn is made of farts, & Robert Smith drowns his sorrows in food.

Despite the presence of The Cure, Sunday was widely regarded as the weakest day of the festival. Consequently, I passed on the 8-bit instrumental beats of Truckasaurus (and a slew of other acts) to engage in one of the festival's other draws: hanging out and drinking in the sun with friends and other like-minded music fans.

Consequently, I didn't make it to the festival grounds until Tegan & Sara were starting their set on the Main stage. The precocious twins played a short set that consisted of equal parts quirky guitar-drive pop rock and sibling banter. They drew mostly from their last two albums, but paid tribute to their long-term fans by closing with "Living Room."

The Presidents of the United States of America were up next, and despite a generous helping of enthusiasm, they couldn't lift their set above or beyond the realms of novelty and nostalgia that songs like "Lump" and "Peaches" conjure up.

Instead of checking out The Kooks or Stephen Malkmus, I waited in line at the Comedy Tent to check out The Sarah Silverman Show's Brian Posehn.

His act was exactly the same as when I saw him a while ago in Vancouver, but it didn't stop me from laughing when he talked about how he looks like a big pile of farts that put on a man costume.

After ditching Posehn's show a little early, it was back to the Main stage for Death Cab for Cutie. The band's latest, *Narrow Stairs*, debuted at number one a few weeks ago, but the little indie band that could still didn't seem capable of owning such a large stage. The only moment where they came close was during the closing number, "Transatlanticism," where drummer Jason McGerr—who works as an instructor at the Seattle Drum School—absolutely pounded his kit for almost two straight minutes while Ben Gibbard crooned "I need you so much closer."

Despite Gibbard's ringing endorsement ("I'm so goddamn excited to see the Cure tonight you wouldn't fuckin' believe it"), I wasn't all that stoked to see the Cure. I stuck around for the first half of the set, and while I feel bad admitting it, the most striking aspect of the show was how fat frontman Robert Smith has become. It was like he had discovered that boys don't cry, they just eat cake. The fact that he also seemed completely unwilling to engage the crowd with anything resembling stage banter didn't help distract me from his apparent thyroid problem.

Day 3: The Hives threaten to blow up the Gorge, The Mars Volta suck, and the Flaming Lips arrive via UFO.

Despite my best efforts, I still got wrapped up in some more early morning boozing, but I did make it down to the Gorge in time for the Hives. The band never fails to put on a clinic about what live music should be about, and when I maneuvered myself close to the front

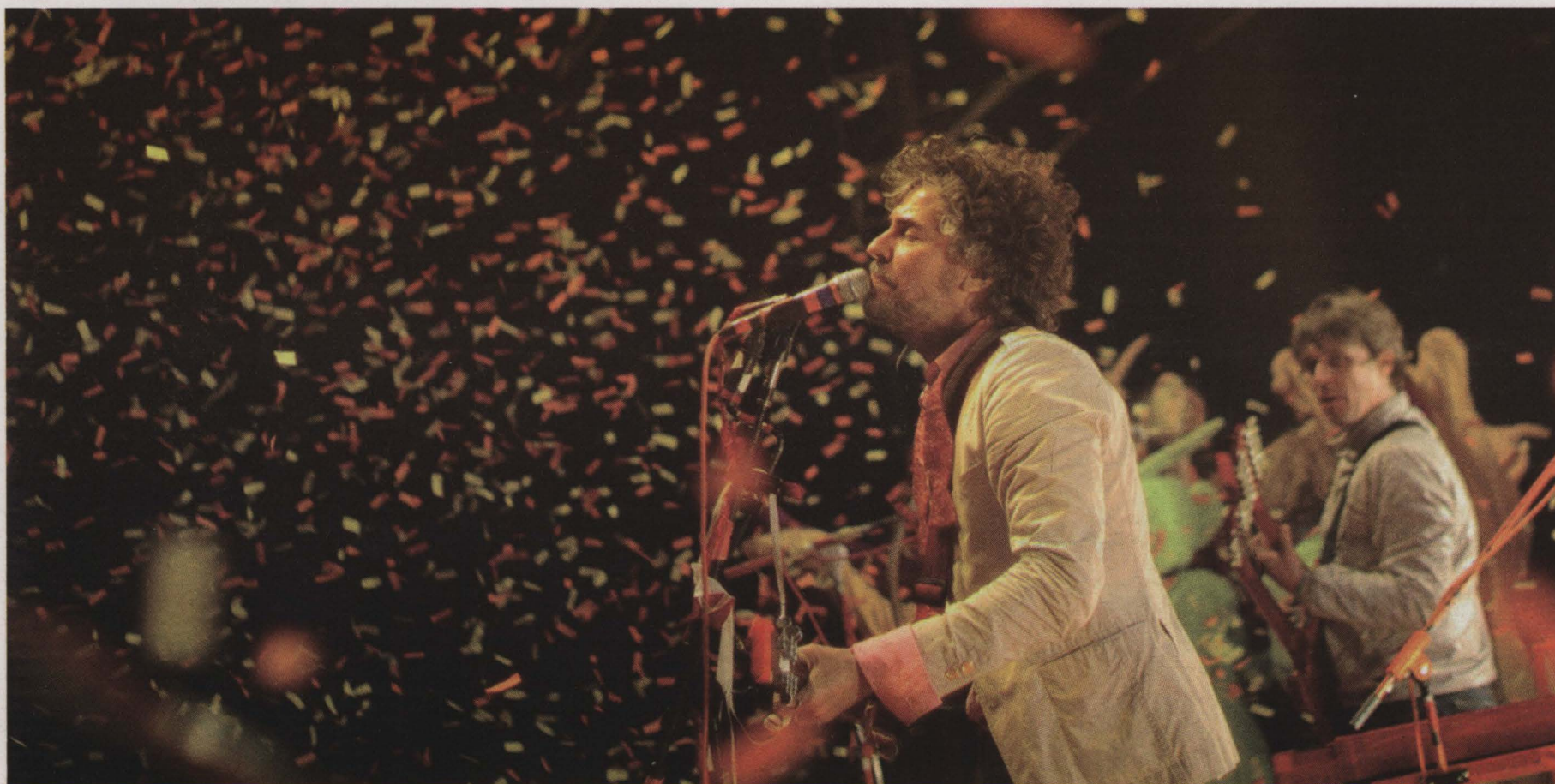


Battles

of the stage, frontman Pelle Almqvist could be heard apologizing to the crowd that the band would only be able to give about 70 percent on this particular day, because if they gave the full 100 percent, then the power of their rock n' roll would cause the Gorge to collapse in on itself, thus killing everyone at the festival. In a festival filled with predominantly antisocial indie bands, the Hives were an energetic standout (at one point Almqvist quipped that he was "the fuckin' Energizer bunny"). Almqvist and guitarist Nicholas Arson spent a fair amount of the set mixing with the crowd, and the crowd was left wanting more by the time they closed with "Return the Favor" from the recent *Black & White Album*.

Built to Spill were up next, and while I didn't really pay a lot of attention to the Idaho quartet, the debt that Ben Gibbard owes to BTS frontman Doug Martsch was immediately apparent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



The Flaming Lips

Give me Liberty City or give me death — a lot of death

The latest GTA ganster opera immerses gamers in a violent and entertaining quest to achieve the American dream

By Ramin Ostad, The Gateway (University of Alberta)



After six iterations, the Grand Theft Auto series has come a long way from its first meager splash into the third dimension in 2001.

Each version gave subtle improvements to the formula that developer Rockstar Games created, but the series has never quite made the leap from evolution to revolution, becoming all too comfortable in the very genre they created. Grand Theft Auto (GTA) IV, however, is something rather unexpected.

Sure, Rockstar's made all of the requisite improvements in melee combat, gunplay, and graphics that one expects

from a sequel. But this time around, they've designed a game that is so much more than just the sum of its parts by creating something you don't really see in a game of this type: a society.

It all starts with character. Your predetermined avatar is named Niko Bellic, a literally fresh-off-the-boat illegal immigrant from Serbia pursuing the dual American dreams of quick money and mass multimedia consumption in the most vibrant, genuine, and distinct environment in console videogame history—Liberty City.

The town is a dream to behold; it's very rare that a game would compel me to sit through a ten-minute cab ride

just so I can take in all the sights and sounds of a virtual world.

The people who inhabit this town all feel right, too, and behave in human ways thanks to the employment of the Euphoria engine, an Oxford-made physics system that gives characters their own dynamic muscles and nervous systems. From a technical standpoint, it may not look as gorgeous as it could, but the shape and design of it all make it feel so authentic.

That authenticity trickles into Niko as well. Unlike his predecessors, GTA IV's protagonist is one deep cat. He's got a serious past, a lot of self-loathing, and a penchant for vengeance that isn't just about some meager gang beef. He may not be a very subtle character, but he has just as many layers as a ripe onion.

This is made even more apparent through the numerous interpersonal relationships you develop along your path. Whereas previous games made characters forgettable as soon as you were done killing people for them, GTA IV keeps you in contact with almost everyone you meet through a handy little device called a cellphone. As you meet people, their contact info is added to your phone, and you can call or text each other to go for dinner, get drunk off

your ass, or just shoot the shit.

If, instead, you want to be a shut-in, you can also chill at home, surf the Internet, or watch TV. While most of the TV and Internet content consists of satire that ranges from laugh-out-loud funny to disgusted smirk, the fact that it's there, and that there's so damn much of it, just adds another layer of reality to this town.

You'll hear radio and TV news updates about tragedies around town — mostly caused by you — then have the ability to surf Internet news and see a more detailed version of those stories on blogs and websites. These elements are so dense and self-referential, part of you wonders just where this place is, and how the fuck you get there.

Obviously, it's not perfect — no game really is — but there's something to be said for just how forward thinking it really is. Rockstar created as literal a 21st-century city as you can attain in a virtual landscape, and infused it with their special brand of wanton destruction and cynicism.

What they've done here is truly revolutionary, and like GTA III, no one will come close to achieving a benchmark like this again for a very long time.

"We Hold On" by Rush

By Pat MacKenzie



Whether you love them or hate them, you've really got to hand it to those venerable hosers from the Great White North: while lesser bands from their nascent era (that's the early 70's) have either gone tits up or are touring the casino circuit in an attempt to cash in on the nostalgia of aging fans, Rush are still making interesting and vital music.

For those of you not familiar, Rush is essentially a hard rock-based power trio made up of Geddy Lee (bass, keyboards and high-pitched vocals), Alex Lifeson (guitars) and Neil Peart (drums). With a predilection over the

years towards pop experimentation (with mixed results), Rush has managed to maintain at least an intensely loyal fan-base, if not the respect of critics.

Having said that, "We Hold On"—taken from 2007's modern rock wall-of-sound thrill-ride *Snakes and Arrows*—can be taken as testament to Rush's staying power. But in the end, and listened to in the context of the entire album, the song is about the tenacity necessary for one to endure the slings and arrows of our deeply troubled world. Placed as the final song on the hour-long CD, "We Hold On" is the glimmer of hope at the end of a series of songs penned by primary wordsmith Peart that do not hold out much optimism for humanity.

And like a Shakespeare comedy, there is always trouble creeping in at the edges: Peart writes in a self explanatory style, "How many times do we weather out the stormy evenings/long to slam the front door/and drive away into the setting sun." The only hope offered here is given with the words, "We could be down and gone/but we hold on." Pretty slim pickings at the end of an album

whose primary themes are war and religious intolerance.

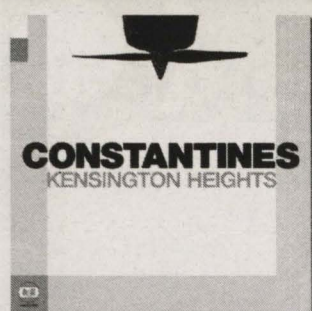
But in typical over-the-top Rush fashion, "We Hold On" is driven by a high energy, indeed optimistic and oddly groovy propulsive force. This is a song you can get your freak on to. "We Hold On" bounces along primarily due to the lethal rhythm section provided by Lee and Peart. Lifeson's guitar, accompanied by Lee's whiny and by now characteristic and appropriate vocals, is

brooding and direct, but for the song's chorus, it descends into a messy wash of chords and single strings reminiscent of Soundgarden.

Trying to get most people to appreciate the music of Lee, Lifeson and Peart is a bit of a chore at the best of times, but with "We Hold On" Rush just might have made a song everyone can enjoy. Well, maybe not your girlfriend, but definitely your mom.



TAKE EIGHT



THE CONSTANTINES KENSINGTON HEIGHTS

The Constantines' last record, *Tournament of Hearts*, was a brilliant exercise in restraint. The band distilled their working-class rock down into ten sparse tracks that constantly threatened to erupt, but never did. *Kensington Heights*, the Cons' first outing for Canadian label Arts & Crafts, is less conservative than its predecessor, and as a result the songs sound cluttered; verses and choruses are less distinct, a shoegazey reverb replaces the crisp guitar tones of *Tournament*, and Bry Webb's Springsteen meets Strummer vocals are left to wallow somewhere in the middle of the mix. Still, *Kensington Heights* is undoubtedly a Constantines record: guitarist Steve Lambke's contribution, "Shower of Stones," is, as usual, the weakest link in the record (Lambke's arrangements are great, but his voice simply can't hold a candle to Webb's), whereas the strongest moments—lead single "Hard Feelings" and "Brother Run Them Down"—showcase the Guelph fivesome at their rockin' best.

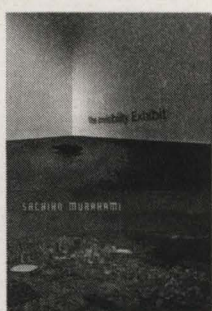
- Luke Simcoe



NINE INCH NAILS THE SLIP

Now that NIN frontman Trent Reznor is finished with record labels and no longer has to worry about the bottom line, he's free to do things like give out entire albums for free to his fans. This is the second free album available on the NIN website, the first being an instrumental album that honestly wasn't very exciting to anyone who's not a die-hard fan. But *The Slip* is an album that will really grow on you... or maybe claw into you is a more fitting allusion for this band. The song "1,000,000" is Nine Inch Nails at their best, a heavy industrial mix with menacing lyrics. If you enjoy music that makes you angry, which I do, you'll definitely like the songs "Letting You" and "Head Down." Even though it's a free album, they definitely included some grade A material. The download is available at theslip.nin.com.

- Mark Fisher

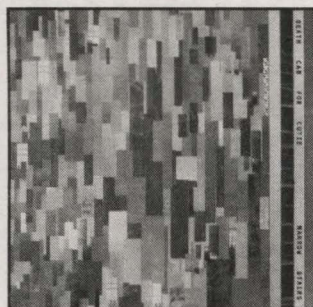


THE INVISIBILITY EXHIBIT

SACHIKO MURAKAMI

In Sachiko Murakami's *Invisibility Exhibit*, poems about Vancouver's missing women transform the abstracts and statistics that we're all familiar with into expressions of immediate physical need. Murakami's emotional and precise poems make Vancouver's missing women, and the problematic downtown east-side with which we associate them, painfully visible. Not only are the women themselves pulled out of invisibility, but also the sense of loss and bewilderment that surrounds their absence. By focusing on what is ignored or not present, Murakami puts the more visible aspects of our city into complicated perspective. This is beautiful poetry about an important subject, and it comes right on time.

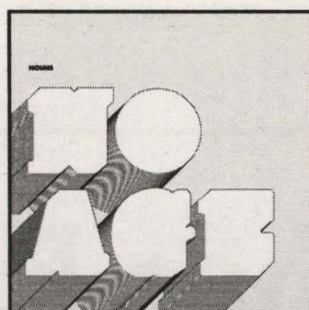
- Aimee Ouellette



DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE NARROW STAIRS

Since the moment they formed in some Bellingham basement, DCFC has been making the slow, seemingly inevitable trek towards maturity and accessibility. They hit the accessibility benchmark with 2005's *Plans*, and with *Narrow Stairs* it seems like their long march towards maturity may well be over. The album is darker, more atmospheric, and more rough around the edges than the well-polished *Plans*, and a few critics have ventured that the album sounds like the result of Ben Gibbard grappling with turning 30. I've still got a few years until I hit that milestone, and consequently, *Narrow Stairs* doesn't resonate all that strongly with me. There are of course some great moments: the beautiful spaciousness of all eight minutes of "I Will Possess Your Heart" is a standout, and both "Cath" and "No Sunlight" are vintage Death Cab, all shiny, but laced with macabre. Still, as a whole the record resounds far more with the sound of settling than any of the band's previous outings.

- Luke Simcoe



NO AGE NOUNS

In 2007, No Age, part of a burgeoning L.A. art-punk scene, released one of my favourite records of the year: a collection of their various vinyl-only EPs entitled *Weirdo Rippers*. Less than a year later, the duo, consisting of guitarist Randy Randall and drummer/singer Dean Spunt, are ready to release their first proper LP on Sup Pop Records. *Nouns*, which officially hits store shelves on May 6, finds the band continuing their tradition of mixing early punk rock riffage with indie atmospherics. Shiny, reverberated soundscapes slowly build, only to be shattered by short bursts of snotty punk bliss. Curiously, I think No Age are about to find themselves at an interesting junction. They're signed to one of the largest independent labels in the world, and they've got a sound that, while experimental at times, is still undeniably catchy and fun. Long story short, you're going to be hearing a lot more about this band in the coming months.

- Luke Simcoe

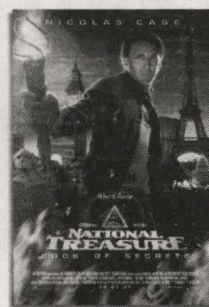


ROB SHEFFIELD

LOVE IS A MIXTAPE

When music journalist Rob Sheffield was 23, he met a girl named Renee. Bonding over a shared interest in music, the two would begin a whirlwind romance and enter quickly into wedded bliss. Five years later, Renee was dead, killed by a rare disease. *Love Is a Mixtape* is the couple's story—or more accurately, their soundtrack—told via a series of mixtapes that the two exchanged during their relationship. To sound clichéd, the book will make you laugh and cry, and it's told in the sardonic tone that we've come to expect from our pop culture writers (Chuck Klosterman, I'm looking in your direction). Like many who lived through it, Sheffield has a tendency to overemphasize the importance of the 90s, but his ability to write about music not from the perspective of an insider or musician, but as a fan, makes his tragic love story all the more earnest and moving. *Love Is a Mixtape* is a must-read for anyone who's ever used someone else's songs to try and express either love or loss.

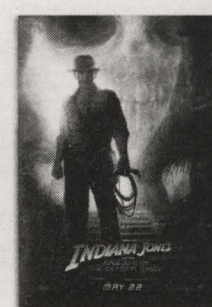
- Luke Simcoe



NICHOLAS CAGE NATIONAL TREASURE 2

While it isn't as good as the first one, *National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets* delivers as a fast paced adventure film that keeps you guessing until the end. Just like the first one, *National Treasure 2* is a fun movie. While it might not always make perfect sense, and some scenes might stretch even the wildest imaginations, it is still a good ride that combines great action with a fun mystery that takes the characters across the whole world. The movie stars Nicholas Cage as Ben Gates, a treasure hunter who must traverse the globe to clear his family's name. Jon Voight plays the role of Cage's father. *National Treasure 2* isn't as great as the first one, but it is still well worth the price of the DVD.

- Garth McLennan



INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

The biggest blockbuster of the year is the latest installment of the legendary Indiana Jones franchise, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, and without a doubt, it lives up to the hype. Steven Spielberg and George Lucas reunite to create a wild ride of a movie that grossed an incredible \$311 million in the first five days of its opening. It has been 19 years since Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, and in all likelihood, this won't be the final Indy film. Both stars Harrison Ford (who plays Indiana Jones) and Shia LaBeouf (who plays Mutt Williams, Indy's sidekick) have expressed interest in continuing the franchise, and Lucas and Spielberg have said that they will make new Indy movies only if the fans want more. Judging by *Crystal Skull*, that won't be a problem.

- Garth McLennan

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Sasquatch '08



I stuck around the Main stage for **Rodrigo y Gabriela** (literally Rodrigo and Gabriela), a Dublin via Mexico duo that plays amazingly contemporary Spanish classical guitar. Both members were formerly part of Mexico City's thrash metal scene, and they bring an undeniable sense of metallic urgency to their acoustic performances. Rodrigo frequently hyped the crowd up, used a beer bottle for a slide solo, played an impromptu cover of the X-Men theme song while Gabriela fixed a problem with her guitar. Their arrangements were frantic, and their playing was incredibly tight. They even included a schticky cover of Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here," which really got the crowd going.

"watching Mars Volta churn out over an hour of utterly unintelligible wankery was akin to being told there was no Santa Claus."

After that, it was off to the Wookie stage for the math-rock wizardry of **Battles**, whose off-kilter time signatures and intricate samples and loops provided the perfect counterpoint to Rodrigo y Gabriela's acoustic prowess. Their set was one of the more talked about events at the festival, and the crowd collectively lost their shit when they closed with the triad of "Tonto," "Atlas," and "Race In." Drummer John Stanier, formerly of Helmet, deserves some serious props as a master timekeeper, and he elicited cheers from the crowd when they realized that he was playing some of the more complex parts live, without any assistance from a sampler.

Although Jamie Lidell was busy funk up the Wookie stage, I actually bailed to spend a few moments with **the Mars Volta**. You see, Cedric Bixler-Zavala and Omar Rodriguez-Lopez of the Volta used to be in a little band called At the Drive-In—a band that quite literally changed my life. Back in 2000, their album *Relationship of Command* put the final nail in the nu-metal coffin and gave

rock n' roll a much-needed shot in the arm. So, naturally, watching the Volta churn out an hour and a quarter of utterly unintelligible wankery was akin to being told there was no Santa Claus. I think they basically played one long song the entire set, and it consisted of skrony saxophone bleating, masturbatory improv guitar, and Bixler-Zavala writhing around onstage, kicking a videographer in the face, and only occasionally singing gibberish lyrics. I swear at one point I heard him

howl something that sounded like "abort the chocolate bar in the back of the brown pinto's cornea." Not surprisingly, their latest record is based on their experiences with a haunted Ouija board they found in Israel.

Fortunately, **the Flaming Lips** soon

followed, and they quickly reaffirmed my faith in live music by arriving via a bright orange U.F.O. suspended above the stage. This was quickly followed by frontman Wayne Coyne walking on top of the crowd inside of a giant inflated hamster ball. The rest of the show was pretty stock for a Lips gig: sing-alongs abounded, Yoshimi battled some pink robots, and there was more confetti, giant balloons, and unbridled joyousness than at the Macy's Day parade. A group of girls even decided to heed Coyne's request that everyone get naked during a cover of Led Zeppelin's "The Song Remains the Same," and they stormed the stage and danced sans apparel.

Underneath all the spectacle and nudity ran a fairly strong anti-war message. Coyne talked a lot about the potential for change and openly discussed his disappointment with the current administration before launching into the "Yeah Yeah Yeah Song," with its chorus of "What would you do with all your power?" A particularly touching moment came when Coyne played a

pre-recorded version of "Taps," the U.S. Army's funeral march, through a bugle while discussing how the American military can't find enough talented bugle players to play the song live at funerals for victims of the Iraq war. It struck both a literal and figurative chord with a lot of people and the Lips deserve a lot of props for showing just how political

their message of peace, love and fun can be.

Well... that's all, folks. The immersive experience of the Sasquatch Festival is really something else, and I urge all of you to check it out next year at the same Sasquatch time on the same Sasquatch channel.

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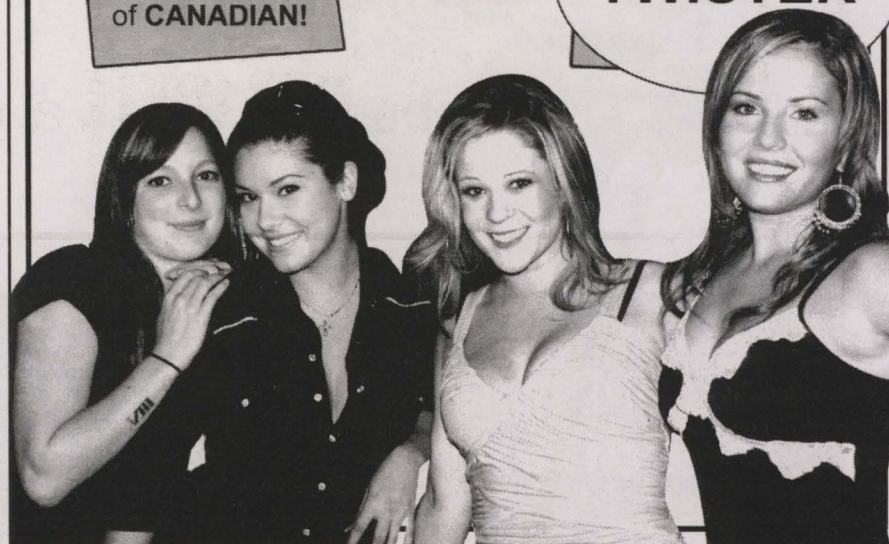
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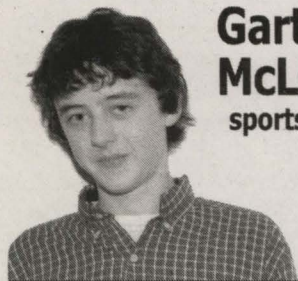
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Gil Cheung to replace Oei



Garth McLennan
sports editor

It's been officially announced that Gil Cheung will replace the departing Jamie Oei as the head coach of the Douglas College men's basketball team.

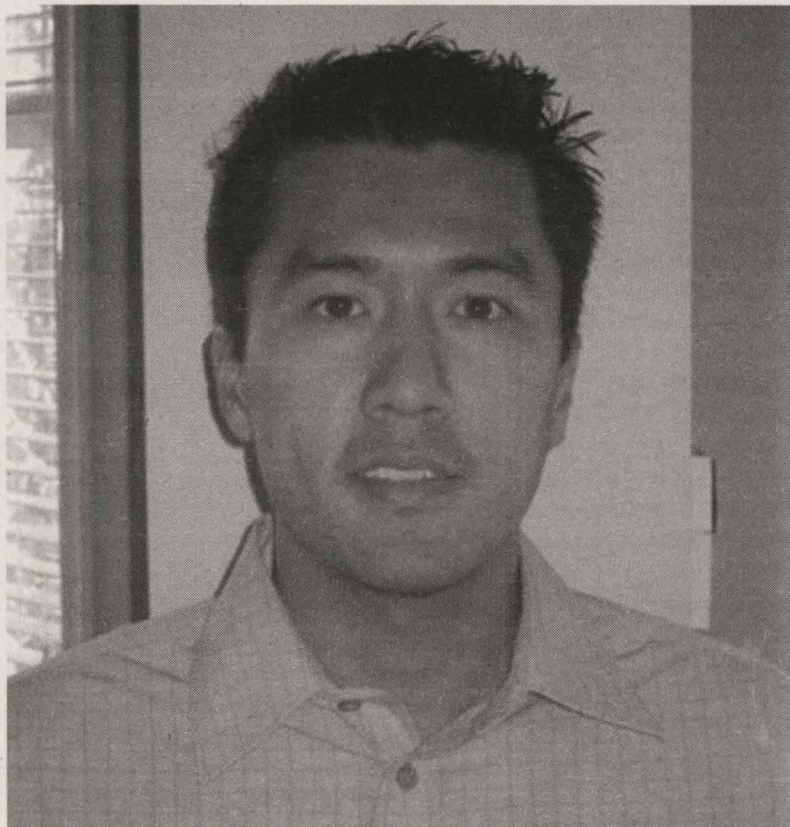
Oei left his position to take up assistant coaching duties with the University of Idaho, and left a big hole after a stellar season that included a perfect record and a national championship.

His replacement, Cheung, has served as one of the assistant coaches at Simon Fraser University. Cheung helmed the British Columbia under-15 team this past season to go along with his SFU duties, and the year before, he was the head man for the BC under-16 team.

Cheung has an extensive playing career to go along with his coaching record. He was an excellent player for the Richmond Colts, and won a provincial championship with the high school in 1998. He would go on to attend Langara College, where he was an integral part of the 1999 CCAA National Championship winning team.

After his stint with Langara, Cheung went on to star with the Brandon University Bobcats, where he was made team captain and would go on to lead the team to four conference titles. To go along with those accomplishments, Cheung was twice a silver medalist at the CIS National Championship tournament.

Needless to say, Cheung has extensive experience when it comes to winning. Ever since his high school days, championship successes have followed him wherever he's gone. With that in mind, he sounds like a perfect candidate to build on the Douglas College Royals already excellent program.



Luc Bourdon dies in motorcycle crash

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

The Vancouver Canucks lost one of their own on May 29, when rookie defenseman Luc Bourdon died in a tragic motorcycle accident. He was 21.

Just two days after purchasing

the bike, Bourdon lost control of the vehicle in Lameque, New Brunswick and smashed into a tractor trailer. Wind may have played a factor in the crash, as gusts reached speeds of 50 kilometers per hour.

The Canucks drafted Bourdon in the first round, 10th overall, in the 2005 NHL entry draft. He played 36 games with Vancouver, scoring two goals and racking up 24 penalty minutes.

Bourdon spent most of his professional hockey career with Vancouver's top American Hockey League affiliate, the Manitoba Moose. In 41 games with Manitoba, he scored six goals and added eight assists for 14 points. He also had 68 penalty minutes.

While Bourdon was developing his game over time in Vancouver's system, his glory days came during his time in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL). In junior, he played for the Val-d'Or Foreurs, Moncton Wildcats and Cape Breton Screaming Eagles. He played 200 major junior games, compiling 88 points with 22 goals and 66 assists. He also had 310 penalty minutes.

Bourdon excelled playing for Canada internationally. He was a gold medalist skating for the Canadian side at both the 2006 and 2007 World Junior Championships. He had 10 big points in 12 games at the WJC's and was a major factor at both events. He was also an assistant captain for Canada at the 2007 series.

Bourdon's name first rose to prominence in Vancouver at the beginning of the 2005-06 season. He was one of the final cuts as he lit up team

training camp as an 18-year old. He was eventually returned to the junior ranks to further his development.

Bourdon struggled for the next few seasons. A string of nagging injuries hindered his game, but by the end of this season he was on the verge of becoming a full time Canuck. Former general manager Dave Nonis had a strong belief in Bourdon's abilities as he refused to part with the smooth-skating, soft-spoken blueliner over the past few NHL trade deadlines.

In the 27 games he played with Vancouver this year, Bourdon was an encouraging plus seven and scored twice. In a year when the Canucks' blueline was devastated

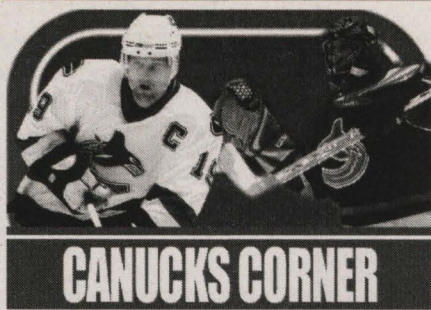
by a slew of injuries that basically shelved their season, Bourdon stepped up his game to help keep the team in the hunt until the end.

Bourdon had the potential to be a star for the Canucks. While his game was taking longer than some expected to reach its full potential, Bourdon had all the signs of an impact player in the making. He had a cannon of a shot, a strong breakout pass and tremendous skating skills. He was the type of prospect that teams love to have and are loathe to part with.

It is a true shame that someone with such a bright future ahead of them had to be taken so early in his life. Luc Bourdon will be missed.

"Bourdon had the potential to be a great star for the Canucks."





Who do the Canucks need?

By Kevin Wong

If I were Mike Gillis, the new general manager of the Vancouver Canucks, I would certainly be eager to sign some free-agent players come July and make some trades to improve my team for the upcoming season. But who should I sign and who should I trade?

I believe that Curtis Sanford will not re-sign with the Canucks before July 1. So who will be the new backup goalie behind Roberto Luongo next season? Calgary's Curtis Joseph would be my choice.

Although Joseph is 41, his experience and ability could help his team get some victories when the number one goalie does not perform well or get injured. For instance, Joseph

recently played a game against the San Jose Sharks during the first round of the playoffs back in April. The Flames were down 0-3 in the first period, but then Joseph replaced Kiprusoff to play in net. Soon after, the Flames defeated the Sharks 4-3. Cujo boosted up the team's morale and helped the Flames make an amazing comeback. So I think Joseph is the right man to be the number two goalie for Vancouver next season.

I don't think defensemen Aaron Miller and Mike Weaver will re-sign with Vancouver before July 1. So who should replace them? I'd like to sign Brian Campbell, 29, and Mike Green, 22. Both of them are offensive defensemen. They can score and bring lots of energy on the blue-line. Green especially is a very talented D-man, scoring 18 goals and 38 assists in his last season with the Capitals. He has likewise posted three goals and four assists in the first round of the playoffs. Lastly, he also

played for Team Canada at the IIHF World Hockey Championship in May. The statistics indicates that Green has great ability to score lots of goals as the Canucks' new defenseman.

For the forward positions, I would try to sign Marian Hossa, one of the best forwards in the NHL. He could easily score at least 30 goals and get at least 90 points in a season. If he is going to sign with us, he should be played on the first line.

My second choice would be Evgeni Malkin. This young Russian player could score at least 50 goals in a season, just like ex-Canucks Alexander Mogilny and Pavel Bure. Brad Richards for the number one playmaker on my team would be another sure bet.

As far as trades go, I would like to trade Daniel and Henrik Sedin to the Columbus Blue Jackets for Rick Nash. Why? Well, the twins have only one year remaining on their contracts with the Canucks. Both of them will be

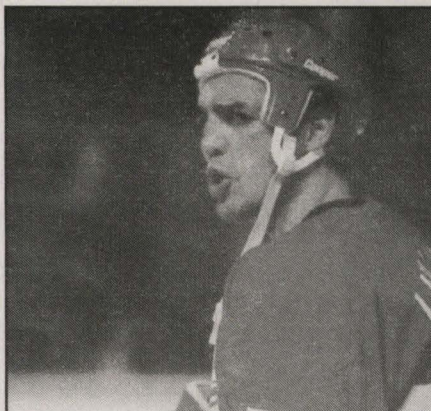
free-agent players come July 1, 2009, and I'm sure that they will ask for increased salaries after the '08 season concludes. If they are not going to re-sign with us, other teams will try to sign them. It makes sense to trade the Sedins when they have maximum trading value.

On the other hand, Rick Nash has an excellent scoring ability, skill, and plays more consistently than either of the Sedins in my opinion. His NHL career stats likewise continue to improve each season. For instance, last season Nash scored a truly beautiful goal that will likely go down as one of the finest goals ever in NHL history. Plus, Nash could play left wing or right wing on the team, making him the ideal power forward for the Canucks.

Finally, I would try to resign Brendan Morrison and Markus Naslund as Canucks for one more year. I would, however, lower their salaries.

Where Are They Now?

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor



Tiger Williams

The NHL's all time leader in penalty minutes may be 54 but is still just as fiery and outspoken as ever. Since retirement, he's been particularly known for spoking out against the quality of refereeing in today's game, condemning its strictness and often erratic nature.

Williams hung up his blades in 1988 after skating with five teams, including the Vancouver Canucks. He'll always be remembered in this city as one of the leading guys in Vancouver's stunning run to the 1982 Stanley Cup finals, where they lost in four straight games to the dynastic New York Islanders.

Williams has also branched outside of hockey. In 1987, he released a full-length cookbook called *Done Like Dinner: Tiger in the Kitchen*. Three years before, in 1987, he had an autobiography published.



Bryant Reeves

Without a doubt one of biggest busts in sports history, Bryant 'Big Country' Reeves is now 34, but he retired from professional basketball at the ripe old age of 28.

Reeves was the sixth overall pick by the Vancouver Grizzlies in the 1995 NBA entry draft. He played his entire forgettable career with the Grizzlies, and never even came close to earning a fraction of the monstrous six-year, \$61.8 million contract he signed with the team in 1997.

While he was the team's first-ever draft pick, Reeves was expected to be the savior of the Vancouver franchise. After the team departed to Memphis, Reeves never played another game. Chronic injuries and a penchant for showing up to camp up to forty pounds overweight combined to end his brief NBA career.

Reeves now spends his days on his hunting ranch in Oklahoma.



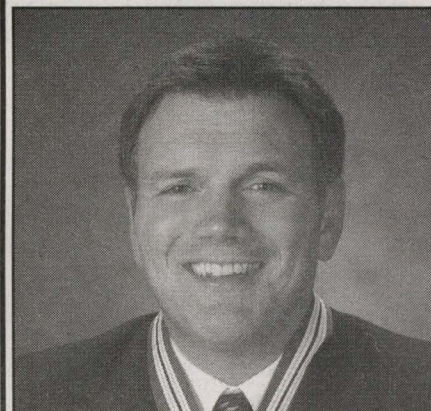
Kelly Law

In 2002, curling star Kelly Law took home a bronze medal for Canada alongside Julie Skinner, Georgina Wheatcroft and Diane Nelson.

Law would then take several years off for personal reasons, including having a child and pursuing a career as a real estate agent for RE/MAX. During that time, her world championship winning squad disbanded.

Law returned to the high level curling scene in 2007 at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, where she accumulated a 5-6 record. However, her recent comeback was destined to be a brief one, as she opted to not curl at all for the duration of the 2007-08 season due to work reasons.

As a result of her recent departure, the new team she assembled has once again disbanded, with Wheatcroft taking over Law's position as team skipper.



Bob Lenarduzzi

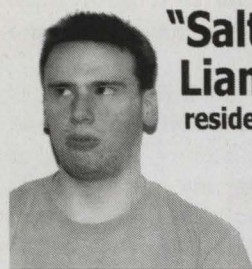
A soccer icon in Vancouver, Bob Lenarduzzi retired from the game in 1987, but has been more than active in retirement. Beginning in 1987, Lenarduzzi coached the Vancouver 86'ers for six seasons. His record spoke for itself as he led the team to four straight CSL championships.

From 1993-1997, Lenarduzzi was the head coach of Canada's national team. He also has led a distinguished administrative and managerial career. He was the general manager of the 86'ers from 1988-1993. He took up the job again in 1998 and in 2000 was awarded with executive of the year honors.

In 2003, he was presented with the Order of British Columbia, and in 2005, he was inducted into the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame.

Now, Lenarduzzi occasionally serves as Toronto FC's color commentator and he frequently writes for *The Province* newspaper.

Four Horsemen debate what next to throw at Southeast Asia



"Salty"
Liam Britten
resident all-star

HELL—The Four Horsemen of the Apocaypse met in the Ninth Circle of Hell earlier this week to determine what further disasters will be featured in their summer line-up of misfortune, tentatively titled, *Can't Miss Summer '08: Oh God, Please Save Us!* The line-up's content is to be directed at the Asian demographic.

These quarterly meeting between War, Pestilence, Famine and Death are considered critical in outlining what horrible ills will befall the nations of the world. Many of the great disasters of the past years were developed in committee meeting such as these. Misfortunes such as Hurricane Katrina, the SARS epidemic, and the election of Gordon Campbell have been widely credited to such group efforts.

"Folks, I think we've done some great work in regard to Asia so far,

but at the same time, we really can do more," opened Famine. "The cyclone in Myanmar was a good start, and the earthquake in China was a great follow-up, but let's keep in mind that this is an emerging market for pain and suffering, and we have to keep up. Asia is a rising superpower as the Western economies plunge, and the accumulating wealth of these nations is just begging to be knocked down."

"I agree," added Pestilence. "I mean, how long can we just sit back and lazily throw tornado after tornado at the southern United States? All we're doing is taking out a few trailer parks here and there. Let's hit the world where it hurts!"

Though the meeting's tone was generally courteous and businesslike, tensions built as War was subtly criticized by other members for failing to cause any great conflicts in the region.

"Give me a break," an exasperated War dismissively said. "I created riots in Tibet, Laos and Thailand both have insurgencies, and that Kashmir thing is never going to end."

An obviously frustrated War continued: "And come on, these countries are all Buddhist! I'd like to see



you do any better with countries filled with pacifists."

After the meeting resumed after a recess, the tone was much more civil. Pestilence was congratulated for outbreaks of Bird Flu, and War's efforts in spreading woe throughout the Middle East were recognized, perhaps as a fence-mending gesture. By the time the meeting adjourned, it seemed that a solidified schedule of human misery had been reached.

"Okay, so Cambodia is getting an

outbreak of Malaria," Death read to the group. "Taiwan will be invaded by China, global warming will finally sink Tuvalu, floods or possibly cyclones will hit Thailand, we'll see what finance has available for that situation, and we'll get Malaysia with an armed insurrection."

A jocular War chimed in, "And if we want to get Japan, we can always throw in a Godzilla attack!"

His remarks were met with hearty laughter, and the meeting was adjourned.

Ol' Hal At it Again

By "Salty" Liam Britten

CROSSVILLE, ALABAMA—Crossville citizen and noted cook Harold "Ol' Hal" McCreary is at it again, according to Crossville residents.

McCreary, 55, has been a resident of Crossville for almost his entire life. Despite his reputation 'round town as something of an eccentric, he is still generally well-liked.

"Ol' Hal's quite a fellow, but harmless enough," chuckled town Mayor James T. Johnston. "He just lives by himself, working on his electric projects. He tells me he's got some tomatoes growing in his basement. I know it might seem strange, but that's our Hal for ya."

While McCreary does not have many close friends in town, his neighbours notice a few out-of-town friends do come by every few months. Neighbours always know when McCreary's visitors are coming by when they hear the sound of Harley-Davidson motorcycles and see the bearded riders on them.

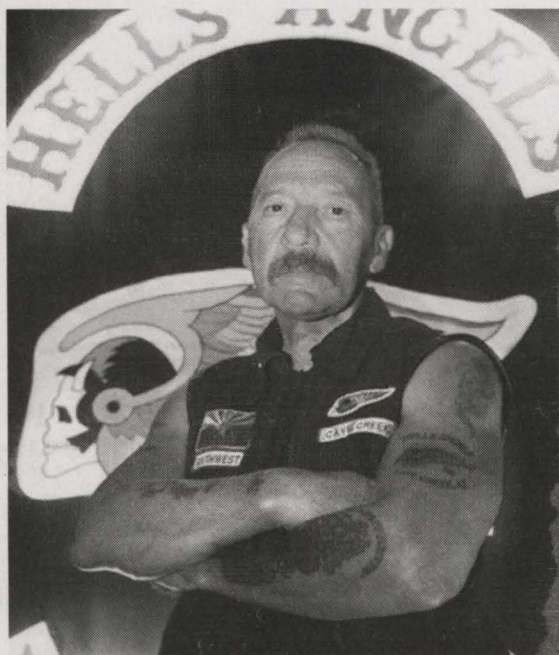
"Back when I first saw Hal's buddies on them bikes, I got to thinking that something ain't right," neighbour Bill Winston told *The Other Press*. "I mean, they had names like 'Crusher' and 'Switchblade,' and they sure did love carrying them handguns. But then they mentioned their gang was called the Angels, and I knew that they had to be a Christian biker gang, and I done said, 'Amen, brothers!'"

Winston continued: "I asked if they ever heard of the *Hell's Angels*, and they threatened to shoot me with their dang ol' Uzis! I reckon if they was that offended at being associated with them *Hell's Angels*, they ain't connected at all."

The newest development with the lovable Ol' Hal

that has everyone talking is the newest addition to his seven-acre property: a 7200-square foot windowless steel barn surrounded by a 10-foot tall barbed wire fence and guarded by a group of six Doberman dogs. Neighbours are naturally curious about what kind of zany things Ol' Hal is up to in there.

"I bet you anything he's going to build some kinda plane in there, I tell you what," mused neighbour



Ol' Hal, seen here at one of his fun club houses

Earl Walters. "I betcha Hal can do it. He's a great electrician, he can wire up just 'bout near anything. I remember he got those 400 watt hydroponic lamps for his underground tanning salon, he did that all by his lonesome. Too bad he only let his motorcycle friends and them Mexican labourers use it."

"An underground tanning salon," observed Earl's wife, Susan. "What'll Ol' Hal think up next!"

McCreary's off-kilter mannerisms aren't appreciated by everyone, though; last November a joint operation between the DEA, FBI, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives known as "Operation: Decapitate" resulted in a massive raid of his property. While the authorities initially claimed that McCreary was "the most powerful drug lord south of the Mason-Dixon," they quickly retracted their comments after charges against him were dropped.

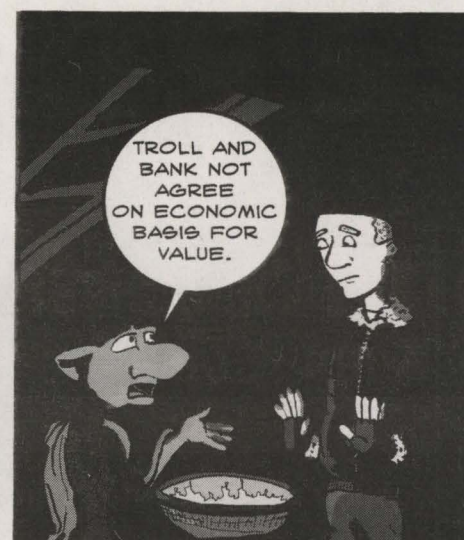
"Yeah, apparently a few key witnesses in the case just decided to leave town forever and not leave any sort of forwarding address to the feds," recalled Mayer Johnston. "All for the best, I suppose. I don't think it's really called for when those big-wig city types from Montgomery come down here to tell a man what to do just because he keeps a few assault rifles on his property."

But for all the attention he gets, Ol' Hal doesn't seem to think he's all that unusual.

"Get the fuck off my property, or I'll fucking kill you, you son of a bitch!" he told *The Other Press*.

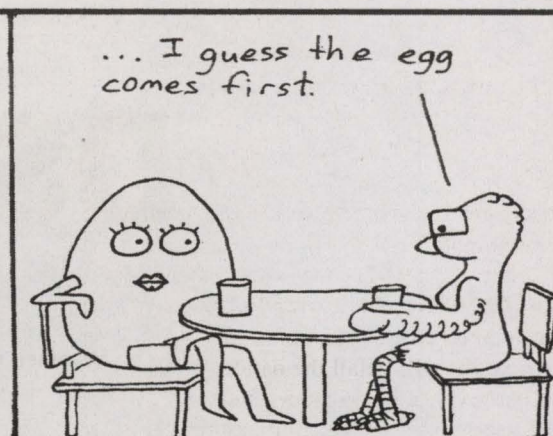
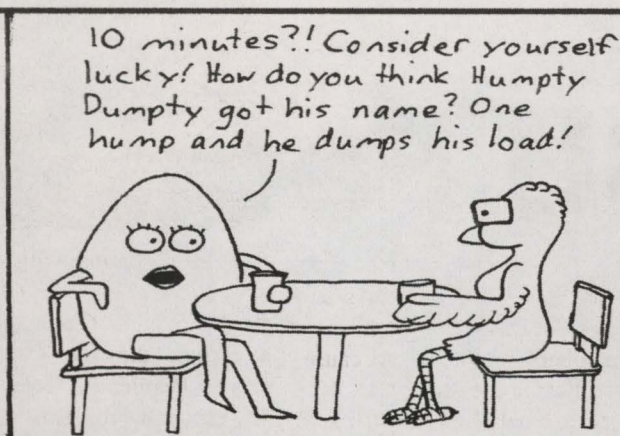
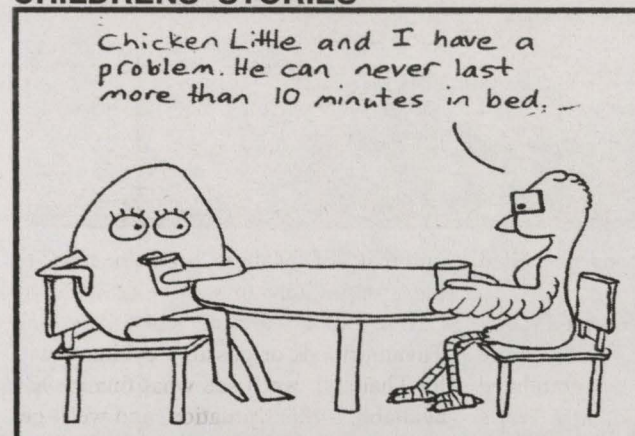
What a neat guy!

SIMULATED COMIC PRODUCT



By Kevin Forbes

CHILDRENS' STORIES



By Andrew McLachlan

TOP 5 WAYS TO DEAL WITH CREDIT CARD DEBT

Many Canadian consumers are facing increasing credit card debt, and there seems to be few answers in sight. How can you lower your credit card debt?

- 5.....Fake death.
- 4.....Take out second mortgage on favourite table.
- 3.....Stop using Visa to pay off MasterCard, MasterCard to pay off American Express, American Express to pay off Guido the Loan Shark, and Guido the Loan Shark to pay off Discover Card.
- 2.....Get loan on home equity after finding out what the hell home equity is.
- 1.....Offer to go double-or-nothing with Capital One on a single game of dice.

TOP 5 SUMMER MUSIC EVENTS

This year, BC will be host to many big music acts and festivals such as the Pemberton Festival, the Whistler Music Festival, and Folk Fest. What other events are scheduled for this season?

- 5.....Munchies Fest, immediately following Folk Fest.
- 4.....Vans Warped Tour, which will result in about 7,500 16-year olds realizing that pop-punk kinda sucks.
- 3.....Mary Hill Elementary School's Fifth-Grade Band Recital, which promoters are calling "the most hardcore shit you'll ever see."
- 2.....Booze, Douchebags and Herpes Festival, also known as the Merritt Mountain Music Festival.
- 1.....The RZA will be performing, and with any luck will have re-animated the corpse of Ol' Dirty Bastard to prove that Wu-Tang Clan is indeed nuttin' ta fuck wit.

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EASY

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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Go to the Main Floor.